

Rain expected in northern, central parts

AMMAN (J.T.) — A gradual drop in temperature is expected this afternoon, with a possibility for showers in the northern parts of the Kingdom later in the evening, a Meteorology Department official said Tuesday. The official said the country will be affected by a low air mass now centred over Cyprus, causing a gradual drop in temperature. Rain is expected in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom as of Thursday morning. The source warned of slippery roads, and gusty weather conditions in the southern and eastern parts of the Kingdom.

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Government suspends sale of 40% stake in telecommunications firm

By Ghadeer Taher

AMMAN — The government announced Tuesday it has suspended the sale of a 40 per cent stake in the Jordan Telecommunications Corporation after one of the contenders withdrew from the deal.

"After one of the companies we were negotiating with pulled out, we decided to stop the process of looking into this tender," Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh said Tuesday evening after a regular Cabinet session. "But we have not halted the process of privatising the telecommunications sector."

"Now we are looking into different scenarios to privatise the company that might lead us to reassess our policies," said Tarawneh, without specifying the course the government would now

take as a result. "We will choose the option that maximises the benefit for the economy and treasury."

The decision to suspend the telecommunications sale signals the end of a stormy process, thrown off course many a time in the last two years when the privatisation process started in earnest.

Alongside an intense public debate by the Parliament and the media, many wary of foreign domination of the economy, the sale was further complicated by contradicting statements by the government, in favour of a strategic partner, and the company's chairman opposed to such a partnership.

Tarawneh said Southern Bell Corporation, one of the two companies which had been vying for the deal,

they said, most likely discouraged the American company from submitting its final offer to the government.

Southern Bell's decision left British Cable and Wireless as the sole contender for the deal. The government decision is certain to win wide support among lawmakers and the public, fearful of relinquishing state assets to foreign investors, especially strategic partnerships.

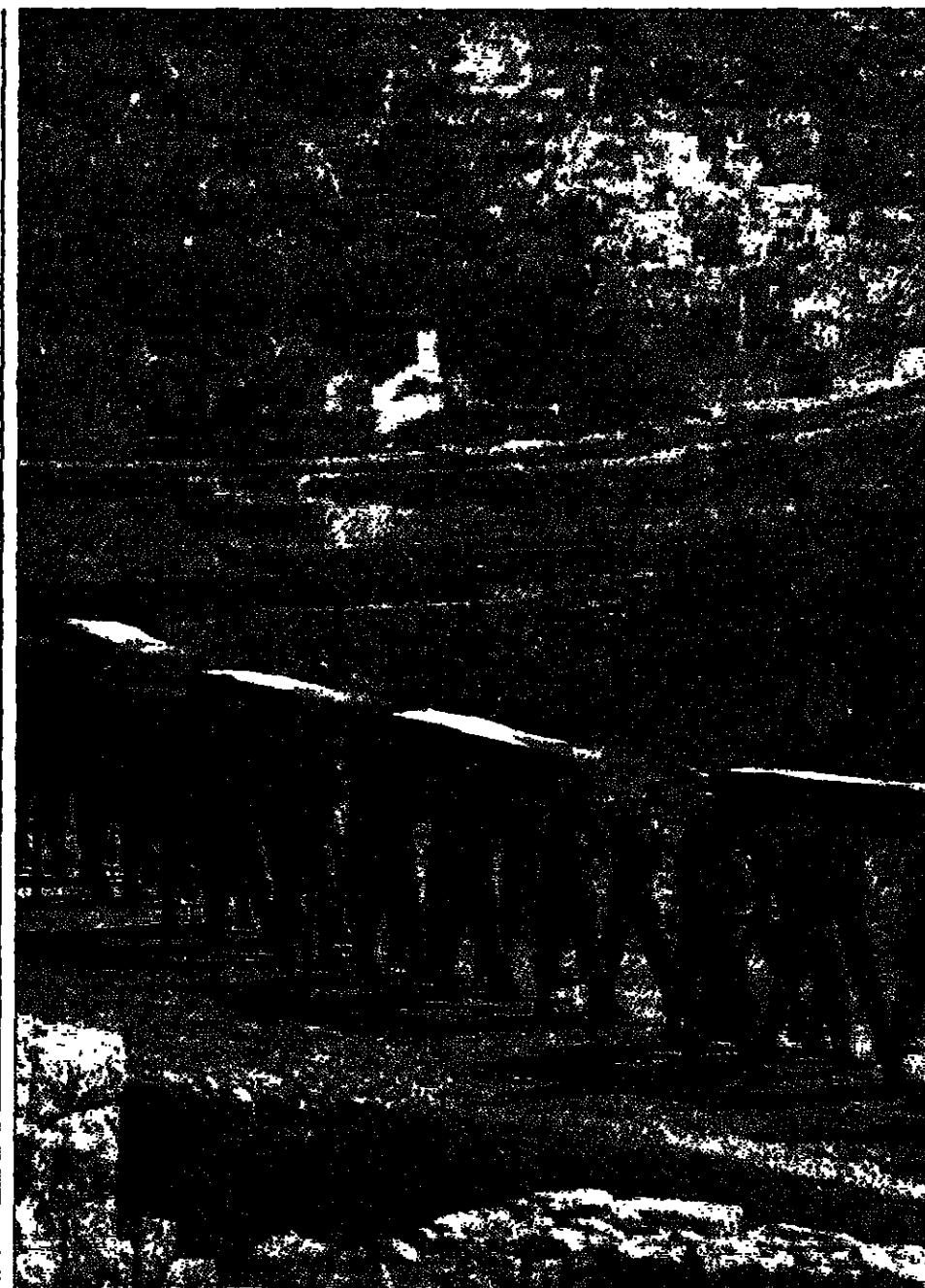
But the move is likely to further put into question the country's commitment to the privatisation programme, already marred by a fiery political debate about the merits and mechanism of selling state monopolies. Apparently concerned with the impact of the decision on Jordan's investment

image, the prime minister highlighted a successful \$100 million (JD72 million) deal, concluded last week, to sell a 33 per cent stake in the blue-chip Jordan Cement Factories Company to French cement giant Lafarge.

"The cement sale will give a boost and credibility to the Jordanian investment economy in its ability to attract \$100 million especially at these times in the international market," Tarawneh told journalists.

The government, which owns 49.3 per cent of the country's sole cement producer, initiated an agreement with Lafarge to sell 30 million of its shares to the French firm at JD 3.6 a share, a premium of 100 per cent of the share's closing price of JD 1.8.

Armed Forces Honour Guard carry coffins containing the bodies of four Jordanian soldiers killed in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war during their funeral procession in the village of Nabi Samuel, northwest of Jerusalem Tuesday (AP photo)



Armed Forces Honour Guard carry coffins containing the bodies of four Jordanian soldiers killed in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war during their funeral procession in the village of Nabi Samuel, northwest of Jerusalem Tuesday (AP photo)

Netanyahu delays cabinet vote on Mideast peace deal

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delayed indefinitely on Tuesday a cabinet decision on a new peace deal until Palestinians submitted a plan to fight "terrorism," his media adviser said.

It was the first obstacle to the implementation of the interim land-for-security deal signed last Friday at the White House to break a 19-month peace-making deadlock. Netanyahu was originally scheduled to convene his cabinet on Thursday to vote on the

deal. "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has decided to postpone the cabinet meeting scheduled for Thursday in which the ministers were due to ratify the agreement reached at Wye Plantation," Netanyahu's media adviser Aviv Bushinsky said in a statement.

The statement said the Palestinians had agreed last week to complete "within a week a Palestinian working plan for fighting terrorism but this evening it became clear that the Palestinians

are not living up to the set timetable."

The accord, signed by Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, promises a phased Israeli withdrawal from 13 per cent of the West Bank in exchange for Palestinian measures overseen by the United States against violent militants.

Senior Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour said the move was "an indication of Netanyahu's political cowardice."

(Continued on page 3)

Palestinian security men tried for storming Ramallah Fateh office

JERICHO (R) — Four Palestinian military police went on trial on Tuesday charged with storming the headquarters of President Yasser Arafat's own mainstream faction, Fateh.

The storming of Fateh's office in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Saturday triggered a protest march in that town on Sunday at which military police opened fire, killing a Palestinian youth on his way home from school. The death of 17-year-old Wasim Al Tarifi has led to Fateh-ordered strikes in at least three Palestinian towns in the West Bank and hundreds-strong demonstrations denouncing the Palestinian National Authority's military investigators department.

Military Prosecutor Colonel Mohammad Al Bishawi told reporters at the trial in Palestinian-ruled Jericho that the four defendants, whose ages ranged from 18 to 30, were on trial also for "infringing on national unity and the interests of the Palestinian people."

Bishawi said he was investigating Tarifi's death and would bring the perpetrators to trial shortly. "We are still investigating until we find out who carried this out and bring whoever was responsible for opening fire, even in an arbitrary way, to trial within 48 hours," he said.

Arafat, who is on a tour of Arab countries to drum up support for his new interim peace deal with Israel, has ordered a military investigation into Tarifi's death, said Tayeb Abdul Rahim, the presidency's general secretary, in a statement published on front pages of Palestinian daily newspapers.

A Palestinian security official said on Sunday the Fateh demonstrators had thrown rocks at Palestinian security forces but that it was not clear who shot Tarifi.

The Palestinian leader can ill-afford to lose Fateh support, having already moved against the Muslim activist groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad through detentions of their members shortly after signing the new deal.

Bishawi would not say why the four military police had stormed the Fateh offices. Fateh has not been as vocal or as violent as the militant groups in its opposition to peace deals with Israel but the fact that some of its members carry weapons fuels fear of Palestinian pledges to limit the number of arms in self-rule areas.

The incident and Tarifi's subsequent death have highlighted the role of Arafat's security forces, who are often accused by human rights groups of abusing their powers.

In the West Bank town of Nablus on Tuesday, masked men told shopkeepers to close their businesses to support a general strike called in solidarity with Fateh over Tarifi's death and the storming of its headquarters.

Hundreds of Fateh supporters marched peacefully through Ramallah and Hebron, chanting slogans against military investigation chief Musa Arafat. "Musa you are a coward and an agent of the Americans. Wasim [Tarifi] rest in peace, we will continue the struggle," chanted marchers in Palestinian-controlled areas of Hebron.

By Alia A. Toukan

AMMAN — With full pomp and splendour, the army on Tuesday buried near Jerusalem the remains of four Jordanian soldiers, killed in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The ceremony, coinciding with the fourth anniversary of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, began with a procession of over 100 soldiers of the Jordan Armed Forces and several senior Israeli army officers.

Following noon prayers at Nabi Samuel Mosque, northwest of Jerusalem, the remains of the soldiers were laid to rest in the Muslim cemetery nearby.

The four bodies were unearthed during an archaeological excavation in occupied east Jerusalem. But there are conflicting accounts as to the date they were discovered.

Of the four soldiers, two were identified as Bassam Jamil Baghdadi from Nablus and Ali Ahmad Shboul from Irbid. The identities of the two others, however, are not yet known.

Members of the Baghdadi and Shboul families attended the burial, joined by more than 200 people, including 10 Lower House of Parliament deputies and several Arab members of the Israeli Knesset.

"Today we honour the memory of four of the martyrs of the Hashemite Arab Army who fell in the defence of Jerusalem," said Major General Mohammad Melkawi in a speech.

"More than 750 (Jordanians) have sacrificed their souls in the defence of Jerusalem and Palestine," said Melkawi.

Jamil Baghdadi, the father of Bassam, said that he had spent the past three decades looking for his son, in the hope that he might have been missing in action.

"His mother died in 1988 and had spent more than 20 years of her life looking for him," Baghdadi told the Jordan Times yesterday. "The last words she uttered were a

plea for me and the family to continue searching for him."

Baghdadi said that two years ago he was contacted by the Israeli authorities informing him that the remains of several Jordanian soldiers were found during an archaeological excavation, and that one of them was likely to be his son.

He said that he asked the authorities to allow his son to be buried in Nablus, if the identity was confirmed, but his request was denied.

Two weeks ago Baghdadi was contacted by the Jordan Armed Forces who confirmed that his son was among the four soldiers, and informed him that his remains would be buried in Jerusalem along with the others, the elderly man said.

"It is the greatest honour to be buried in Jerusalem. I am very thankful to both the Jordanians and Israelis," said Baghdadi. "This doesn't happen to everyone."

Settler work at Ras Al Amud stopped

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli police said they put a stop to Tuesday to excavation work by Jewish extremists hoping to establish a settlement in Arab east Jerusalem.

Settlers from the ultra-nationalist Ateret Cohanim group were prevented from using a mechanical digger on a site they occupy in the Palestinian residential district of Ras Al Amud, on the western slope of the Mount of Olives. The settlers, who want to create a 132-apartment settlement, said they had received instructions to start work from the site's owner, Miami resident U.S. millionaire Irving Moskowitz.

The Jerusalem municipality gave the go-ahead for construc-

tion of the settlement last month, but police still intervened to stop the settlers pressing ahead.

The site is particularly sensitive as Ras Al Amud is the last solidly Palestinian district linking Islamic sites in the Old City to the city's Palestinian suburbs.

Palestinians fear Israel is seeking to encircle the Old City with Jewish settlements to preempt talks due to start early next month on the city's final status. Palestinians want to make Arab east Jerusalem the capital of a future Palestinian state. But Israel insists the eastern sector it occupied in 1967 will remain an "undivided" part of what it regards as its capital.

Turkey, Israel, U.S. to hold drills

CAIRO (AFP) — Turkey, Israel and the United States will conduct joint naval manoeuvres in the eastern Mediterranean from Nov. 29 to Dec. 3, diplomats said here Tuesday.

The dates for the second set of Mediterranean manoeuvres by the three countries were proposed by Israel, an Arab diplomat said.

Jordan, which took part as an observer in January's exercises, has not yet decided whether to play a similar role in these manoeuvres, the diplomat said.

The Reliant Mermaid II exercises, which will begin in Turkey's Antalya port and move into international waters, involve air and sea search and rescue operations as well as land exercises, the diplomat said.

The exercises are being carried out under a February 1996 Turkish-Israeli military cooperation agreement.

But Turkey's Ambassador to Cairo Yasser Yakis said the Israeli-Turkish military cooperation "is not aimed against a third country in the region," a reference to Syria, which shares borders with both countries.

Syria maintains that it is the intended victim of the Israeli-Turkish pact and has led protests in the Middle East.

Islamic Jihad official critically injured in Sidon car bombing

SIDON (AFP) — An official of the activist Islamic Jihad, his wife and child were critically injured when a car bomb exploded Tuesday in the southern city of Sidon, police said.

Mahmoud Al Majzoub, his wife and their four-year-old son Hamzeh were rushed to hospital in critical condition, police said.

Hospital officials said Majzoub, a 37-year-old Lebanese, and his child

were still undergoing surgery at mid-day while his wife, Nuba Rawas, was treated and moved to a room in the hospital.

An Islamic Jihad representative, Abu Imad, accused Israel's intelligence services of attempting to assassinate Majzoub.

"This crime was perpetrated by the Mossad and is a direct consequence of the Wye Plantation agreement which was meant to destabilise the situation in

Palestine and abroad," said Abu Imad.

The Israeli-Palestinian agreement signed on Friday provides for an Israeli withdrawal from more of the West Bank in return for Palestinian security action against anti-Israeli groups such as Islamic Jihad and Hamas.

The car bombing took place while Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was making his regular weekly visit to his father in their native city, the biggest in

southern Lebanon.

Tension remained high after the bombing as Lebanese army troops and members of the Internal Security Forces (ISF) cordoned off the area of the explosion, erecting checkpoints at main roads across the city.

ISF officers fired in the air in two separate incidents when a man riding a motorcycle and another driving a car failed to stop at checkpoints. Both were arrested for interrogation,

police said.

On Saturday, two Lebanese policemen were shot dead in Sidon by two unidentified gunmen on a motorcycle. The assailants escaped.

The shooting took place in a central square in Sidon where the two policemen were directing traffic.

On Oct. 15, a Lebanese soldier was shot and wounded in the same area of Sidon by two men riding a motorcycle.

S. Arabia backs Palestinians after Wye River agreement

Crown Prince Abdullah questions Israeli desire for peace

Agencies

SAUDI DEFENCE Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz met Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Riyadh Tuesday and reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's support for the Palestinians after the Wye River accord with Israel.

Prince Sultan hoped the accord would prove "a positive step on the path to a just and comprehensive peace in the region," Palestinian ambassador Mustafa Al Sheikh Dab told AFP.

The defence minister also assured Arafat of "the kingdom's support for the Palestinian people."

The Palestinian leader was in Riyadh to brief the Saudi leadership on last Friday's Wye River accord, following similar visits to Egypt and North Africa.

While Prince Sultan echoed the satisfaction of King Fahd at the latest accord, Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz said he feared Israel would waste the

chance of making peace with its Arab neighbours.

"I am personally worried because I doubt the Israelis, and those who espouse their cause, have a logical and objective understanding" of the need to make peace, he said, quoted by the official news agency SPA.

"I fear that we will see the Israelis miss the chance and commit a crime against their Jewish people, who could seek to make peace in the future but it would be too late," said Prince Abdullah.

On Tuesday, Prince Abdullah returned from a marathon world tour that marked his diplomatic debut in key foreign cities.

Immediately on arrival in Riyadh he called on King Fahd and conveyed the greetings of world leaders, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

The prince's six-week tour of London, Paris, Washington, Beijing, Tokyo and Seoul with a final stop in Lahore had much to do with image and raising his profile among strategic eco-

nomics and political allies of the world's major oil power.

In Lahore, Prince Abdullah called for peace in neighbouring Afghanistan, condemned terrorism world-wide and urged the world's newest nuclear powers to settle their disputes peacefully.

At the end of his three-day visit to Pakistan, Abdullah and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif issued a joint communiqué calling for the troubled Kashmir dispute to be settled through United Nations resolutions calling for a plebiscite.

The joint communiqué issued by Abdullah and Sharif also reiterated their support for United Nations' efforts to bring peace to war-ravaged Afghanistan. It also "condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations irrespective of race, motivation and religion."

The tour, which included a trip to Casablanca and a holiday in Hawaii, was his first visit to the West in 10 years.

In Washington, Prince Abdullah invited American business-

men to invest in the kingdom and broke new ground by meeting executives of U.S. oil companies which were forced out when Saudi Arabia nationalised its oil industry two decades ago.

The prince told reporters in London that Saudi Arabia was over the worst of its recent financial woes but would tighten its belt further if necessary.

Weak oil prices have reduced Saudi earnings from crude, which account for about 75 per cent of state revenues, by one-third this year to \$29.4 billion and strained the kingdom's finances, according to U.S. Energy Department estimates.

Interviewed in Washington by Time magazine mid-way through his grand tour, Prince Abdullah said there was absolutely no difference between his attitude and that of King Fahd towards the United States.

Time said Prince Abdullah's globetrotting signalled that his ascension to the throne was unchallenged.



POLICE INSPECT CARBOMBING SITE: Lebanese military policemen and civil defence workers Tuesday inspect a damaged car belonging to Abu Hamza Majzoub in the port city of Sidon in south Lebanon. A bomb in the car exploded, wounding Majzoub, a man with suspected links to Islamic Jihad, and three others, security sources said (Reuters photo)

'Netanyahu in danger of violating Wye agreement'

CAIRO (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is in danger of violating his agreement with the Palestinians if he goes forward with a promise to build more housing in West Bank settlements, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Monday.

Netanyahu told Israel's army radio Monday that his agreement with the Palestinians last weekend did not bar construction in existing settlements.

Arab leaders have repeatedly called for a halt to building on disputed land.

If Netanyahu's comments "expose the intentions of the head of the Israeli government, this is the beginning of the breach of the agreement," Musa said.

The agreement calls on both sides to avoid taking steps to change the status of the West Bank, but does not specifically mention settlements.

Netanyahu has said his government will build in settlements to make room for natural population growth in the enclaves.

Arab leaders view any attempt to increase settlement as a move to strengthen Israel's hold on the land, which was occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab-Israeli elected Knesset deputy speaker

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Arab Israeli MP has been elected deputy speaker of the Israeli parliament, the first time a member of a communist party has been elected to the post. Salah Salim, whose communist party Hadash has five deputies in the Knesset, was elected deputy speaker on Monday by 57 of the 120 members of the Israeli parliament.

SLA member killed

TYRE (AP) — Guerrillas fired rockets into the Israeli-occupied zone of southern Lebanon on Tuesday, killing an Israeli-armed militiaman, Lebanese security officials said. The Iranian-backed Hizbollah group said its fighters had attacked with rockets the Jabal Hmayyed hilltop post of the South Lebanon Army militia, eight kilometers north of the Israeli border and 12 kilometers southeast of the port of Tyre. Lebanese officials and an Israeli army spokesman in Jerusalem said an SLA militiaman was killed. In retaliation, Israeli and SLA gunners opened fire on suspected guerrilla hideouts north of the occupied zone, officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. There was no immediate word of casualties from the retaliatory shelling.

Algerian journalists strike in debt row

ALGIERS (R) — A group of Algerian journalists went on strike Tuesday to support colleagues at six non-government dailies locked in a debt row with state-run printing houses for the 11th day. The strike called by the four-month-old Independent National Union of Journalists is seen as a test for the union's representation in Algeria's increasingly vocal media which employs some 3,000 journalists. The six newspapers, including the country's most influential El Watan, failed to appear since Oct. 17 when the printing houses ordered them to pay all outstanding debts immediately.

Saudi man's hand cut off for stealing

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi authorities chopped off the right hand of a man Tuesday for stealing at Islam's holiest site in Mecca, the official Saudi Press Agency reported. Sa'id Ben Musallam Al Harthy was convicted of pickpocketing worshippers praying in the Grand Mosque next to the Kaaba, the focal point of Muslim prayers. Al Harthy's hand was cut off with a sword in the Holy City of Mecca in western Saudi Arabia, the agency said.

CIA director says Middle East role 'nothing new'

NEW YORK (AP) — The CIA's role in the Middle East is to squelch terrorism and improve communications between the Israeli government and the Palestinian National Authority, Agency Director George Tenet says.

"There have been so many incorrect guesses about why the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is involved in the effort to bring peace to the Middle East, and so much speculation about its supposedly new role, that I have decided to set the record straight — to the extent that confidentiality will allow," Tenet wrote in a New York Times piece published Tuesday.

The CIA has tried to improve the professionalism of security forces on the West Bank and Gaza, and bolster confidence that steps are being taken to end violence in the region, he said.

Under the U.S.-brokered agreement concluded Friday between Israel and the Palestinians, the CIA would keep track of Palestinian efforts to arrest and punish activists as a way of assuaging Israeli security concerns. The deal would create a three-party mediation system in which Palestinian

and Israeli security officials could present disputes to a CIA arbiter.

Another part of the CIA mission is keeping American policy makers informed on how the peace agreement is being carried out.

Tenet argues that the role is essentially what the CIA already does in the region.

"There's nothing new in this role for the CIA," Tenet wrote. "What is slightly unusual in the current case is that the agency's role has become widely publicized." Tenet said the CIA is not positioning itself between combatants, placing officers in the security operations of either side, assuming direct ground control, or serving as border guards or bodyguards. CIA officers will not arrest or interrogate anyone, he said.

"In sum," Tenet wrote, "the CIA is not making policy but helping carry it out. This is consistent with the agency's history of fighting terrorism and helping friends and allies in the region live together peacefully and safely."

Critics have said that the CIA is overstepping the limits of its charter. But Tenet countered: "Fighting terrorism is our charter."

'Netanyahu traitor' cries raise new assassination fears

TEL AVIV (R) — Protests branding Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu a traitor over his peace deal with the Palestinians raised fears on Tuesday that he might suffer the same fate as assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Hundreds of Jewish settlers and other hard-liners demonstrated outside the prime minister's home in Jerusalem late on Monday against the land-for-peace deal he signed in the United States last Friday with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Angry at the killing of a West Bank settler on Monday, they invoked Netanyahu's nickname and chanted "Bibi is a traitor" and "Bibi is a liar." Posters depicted blood dripping from his handshake with Arafat.

The slogans and pictures recalled the noisy protests in the weeks before Rabin's assassination on Nov. 4, 1995. Opponents branded Rabin a traitor and a murderer for giving land to the Palestinians.

Posters portrayed the former army chief as a Nazi and Arab in keffiyeh head-dress.

Netanyahu said he understood concern among those opposed to ceding land but insisted only a "tiny minority" posed a violent threat "and I don't really address those kinds of threats."

"Once a leader of a country begins to determine his policies based on personal threats, he shouldn't lead. He is extorted by blackmail, and I don't act that way. Leaders should lead, they should not be concerned with threats," he told Reuters.

A poll of 505 Israeli Jews conducted for the third anniversary of Rabin's assassination found that nearly half believed chances of a future political murder were high. Only a third believed Israelis had learned the lessons of the killing.

Labour Party politician Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, a friend of Rabin's, said all it would take was a death edit

from militant Jews to trigger an assassination.

"This group has no God, and if an order is issued for the prime minister, they'll kill him. This is a process no one can stop," Ben-Eliezer told Israel's army radio.

Settlers' spokesman Aharon Domb — who issued a public apology after initially declaring the new peace deal an act of treason — estimated a few hundred people were behind the threats of violence and appealed for an end to the threats.

"This is hundreds of people," Ben-Eliezer retorted during a joint radio interview. "It's enough if there are five people."

Netanyahu's government, formed after he defeated Rabin's successor Shimon Peres in a 1996 election, is made up largely of Jewish religious and right-wing parties opposed to giving up any of the West Bank Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

Security has always been

tight around Netanyahu but it was unprecedented on his return from the U.S.-brokered summit with Arafat where he agreed to transfer a further 13 per cent of the West Bank in return for concrete Palestinian security measures.

At Tel Aviv airport on Sunday, security men checked reporters' packs of chewing gum and Netanyahu unexpectedly took a helicopter home to Jerusalem rather than drive along a highway blocked by demonstrators.

President Ezer Weizman, whose job is largely ceremonial, warned Israelis after meeting Netanyahu on Tuesday: "If the same incitement is directed against him as was directed against someone else in a similar situation, it's very grave."

Settlers, many of whom view the land as Israel's biblical birthright, have vowed to join forces with the Labour-led opposition to bring Netanyahu down in elections long before they are scheduled to take place in 2000.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:10 "The Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin"
15:30 Children's Programme — Halfway to Cross the Galaxy and Turn Left
16:00 French Documentary
16:30 Masters of the Maze
17:00 Doc. — Ushuaia
18:15 Wind at My Back
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Science Magazine — E-M6
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Comedy — Two Point 4 Children
20:00 Doc. — Envoy Special Magazine
20:30 Kung Fu
21:10 Great Moments of Science and Technology
21:30 Faces and Places
22:00 News in English
22:30 Chicago Hope
23:59 Drama — The Ambassador
01:00 End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:26 Fajr
05:44 (Sunrise) Duba
11:19 Dhuhur
14:26 Asr
16:55 Maghreb
18:12 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
4632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 4634590
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366
Anglican Church Tel. 4624853/4624811
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751
Amman International Church Tel. 5865897
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138
Church of Presentation, Sweifeh Tel. 5920146
The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757
The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 464190
Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679
The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052
The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 4771331
The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 4775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Fine weather conditions will prevail during the day. Clouds will build up in the afternoon with a chance of scattered showers in the northern parts of the Kingdom. Temperatures will drop also significantly. Winds will be southerly moderate to active with strong gusts. On Thursday, rain is expected to fall over central areas. In Aqaba, it will be moderate, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Amman 13/26
Aqaba 19/31
Deserts 12/28
Jordan Valley 18/32
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 30 Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:
Ajloun 22
Jerash 28
Um Qays 27
Madaba 26
Petra 27
Dead Sea 33

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
Dr. Bassam Karadseh 4389200

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 4637111
Civil Defence Department 5661111
Civil Defence Emergency 4630341
Rescue Police 192 4621111, 4637777
Fire Brigade 4617101
Blood Bank 4775121
Highway Police 5343402
Traffic Police 4896390
Public Security Dept. 4630321
Hotel Complaints 5605800
Price Complaints 5661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints 4897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 4787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 0132
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 4623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101
Jordan Television 4773111
Radio Jordan 4774111
Water Authority 5680100
J. Electricity Authority 5815615
Electric Power Co. 4636381
RJ Flight Information 44-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 44-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic, Abdi 5666131/7
Hussein Medical Centre 5856856
Luzmila 4630195
Khalidi Maternity 4644281/6
Akileh Maternity 4642411/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362
Malhas, J. Amman 4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 5607071
Shmeisani Hospital 5669131
Jordan Hospital 5607550
University Hospital 5333444
Al-Muasher Hospital 566727/9
Al-Ahli, Abdi 5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 4777101/5
Al-Bashir 4775111/26
Army, Marka 4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50
Amal Hospital 5674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986731
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
IRBID:
Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101
Jordan Television 4773111
Radio Jordan 4774111
Water Authority 5680100
J. Electricity Authority 5815615
Electric Power Co. 4636381
RJ Flight Information 44-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 44-53200

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Roman Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)7101372, (02)7103101
Rosary Sisters Hospital (02)7102831, (02)7102011
Specialty Hospital (02)7103100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)2014111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 44 (52700). Information on Royal Wings flights can be supplied on phone 4875201-5

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:30 Damascus (RJ)
08:35 Jeddah (RJ)
08:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:55 Larnaca (RJ)
15:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

16:25 London (RJ)
16:50 Istanbul (RJ)
17:05 Paris (RJ)
17:30 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
17:55 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
18:10 Rome (RJ)
18:20 Brussels, Berlin (RJ)
18:45 Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)
23:10 Beirut (RJ)
23:59 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights

09:30 Cairo (MS)
10:30 Jeddah (SV)
12:20 Kuwait (KU)
13:10 Tunis (TU)
13:20 Bahrain (GF)
14:05 Rome (AZ)
15:05 Vienna (OS)
15:30 Algiers (AH)
18:05 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)
18:40 Beirut (ME)
19:15 Frankfurt (LH)
00:55 London, Damascus (BA)
01:25 Athens (OA)
02:00 Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights
10:30 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA) (RW)
11:15 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW)
18:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW)
19:20 Tel Aviv (arriving at QAIA) (RW)
23:25 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW)

DEPARTURES

06:50 Larnaca (RJ)
08:25 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
09:45 Rome (RJ)
11:00 Istanbul (RJ)
12:15 London (RJ)
16:30 Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)
19:30 Colombo (RJ)
19:35 Beirut (RJ)
20:00 Riyadh, Dahrhan (RJ)
20:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:15 Bombay (RJ)
20:25 Cairo (RJ)
20:35 New Delhi (RJ)
21:00 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
21:15 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
01:00 Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights

06:30 Larnaca (CY)
07:25 Damascus, London (BA)
07:25 Paris (AF)
10:30 Cairo (MS)
12:00 Medina, Jeddah (SV)
13:20 Kuwait (KU)
14:10 Bahrain (GF)
14:10 Tunis (TU)
15:30 Vienna (OS)
16:30 Rome (AZ)
16:20 Sharjah (AH)
19:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
00:35 Amsterdam (KL)
02:45 Athens (OA)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

08:00 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
09:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
17:30 Tel Aviv (from Marka Airport) (RW)
21:30 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)

Home News

King's role in Wye deal 'essential' — FM

LONDON (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khatib on Tuesday said His Majesty King Hussein's efforts in the conclusion of the Wye Plantation Accord were an "essential step" in achieving a comprehensive peace settlement in the region.

"King Hussein called for the accord and encouraged Palestinian and Israeli negotiators to reach the agreement," Khatib told the Middle East Broadcasting Corporation in a recent interview. "The King's role and participation were essential in the conclusion of the accord which, however, still faces some obstacles."

He added that the four-year-old Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty has achieved many goals such as regaining Jordanian land and rightful water rights.

"Jordan does not spare any effort to accomplish all the peace treaty's objectives, which will serve the next generations," Khatib told the London-based corporation.

He said that although establishing comprehensive peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis is the main and central issue, "we look forward to achieving success on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks with Israel to regain the two Arab countries' legitimate rights."

Khatib commented on Ariel Sharon's appointment as Israel's foreign minister and its effects on the recent Wye Accord, saying that "it is an internal Israeli concern that should not affect the agreement."



TARAWNEH RECEIVES DELEGATION: Prime Minister Faysal Tarawneh on Tuesday receives a delegation headed by Sheikh Muwaffaq Ben Tarif representing the Arab Druze community in Israel. The delegation praised His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to establish peace in the region and his contribution to the recent Israeli-Palestinian agreement. The delegation wished King Hussein a quick recovery and safe return home (Petra photo)

New evening daily newspaper awaits licence from press department

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National House for Press and Publications Company is applying for a licence to publish an evening daily, the paper's chief editor said Tuesday.

"We will start printing once we obtain the Press and Publications Department's approval," Bassem Sakijha told the Jordan Times.

He said he expected the first edition of the evening daily, Al Masa'iah (The Evening), to appear in December.

"By publishing late in the afternoon, after 2 p.m., we will benefit from the time difference with the United States and many other foreign countries,"

Sakijha said, explaining how other dailies start printing from page 4 p.m. at night, giving the evening paper the advantage of carrying updated news.

Sakijha said the new daily will cover various issues of interest to readers with no focus on a specific audience.

"It will be a comprehensive paper covering political, economic and cultural aspects of life," he said.

"Al Masa'iah will be putting the Press and Publications Law and the government to the test by tackling issues in a totally open manner," he said.

"We will of course be dealing with these issues

within the boundaries of the law," he added.

According to Sakijha, the daily will initially be sold in Amman and will later expand to cover all of Jordan.

"We will start with 15,000 copies for our first edition, and then move on to reach around 20,000 copies within six months of publication," he added.

He maintained that Al Masa'iah, with a capital of JD500,000, will be editorially independent.

The National House for Press and Publications is one of many publishing companies in Jordan. It has shares in Al Arab Al Yawm daily and Shihan weekly.

Jordan, Egypt agree on new regulations for Egyptian workers

'Grace period for illegal labourers may be extended'

By Mohammad Ben Hussein

AMMAN — Jordan and Egypt signed an agreement Tuesday on rectifying Egyptian workers' status in Jordan as part of the government's drive to crack down on foreigners violating residency rules, labour officials said.

According to the agreement signed by Ministry of Labour Secretary General Saleh Tarawneh and Egyptian Ministry of Labour Undersecretary Ahmad Khalaf, Egypt will not allow any Egyptian worker to enter Jordan without a contract authenticated by Jordanian and Egyptian officials, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The agreement stipulates that any Egyptian who wishes to visit a relative in Jordan must meet certain conditions to be allowed to

travel to the Kingdom. The visitor must carry a round-trip ticket to Jordan, at least \$150 in cash, and must be at least a second-degree relative of the party to be visited.

Young professional Egyptians are not allowed to travel to Jordan for tourism, according to the agreement.

It also stipulates that travellers en route to the Gulf must have a visa for their destination or hold valid residency in the country of destination.

Also Tuesday, labour officials said the Labour Ministry may consider extending the one-month grace period given to illegal workers to rectify their status before taking legal action against them.

So far, according to Labour Ministry officials, only 92,000 workers out of an estimated one million foreign workers in the

country have rectified their status.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, could not explain the reasons for the dismal results of the nearly one-month campaign launched by the government.

According to the Labour Law, if employers fail to legalise their workers' status, the employer could be fined up to JD100 and the labourer will be deported at the employer's expense.

Interior Minister Nayef Qadi earlier said Jordan had "frightening numbers" of foreign workers, compounding the country's economic difficulties. The minister estimated that Jordan is hosting around one million foreign workers.

The government had earlier estimated that 300,000 foreign workers were living in the country.

Qadi said that among the

one million foreign workers, there are around 425,000 Egyptians who have entered and still live in Jordan.

While many experts support the government move to organise the local labour market by cracking down on illegal workers, they expressed fear that moving too fast would harm the agriculture and construction sectors, the main magnets of expatriate labour.

Some economists have cautioned the government against blaming the country's rising unemployment rate on foreign workers and using the crackdown as a panacea for the problem.

The Labour Law precludes foreign workers from employment in 14 job areas, including working as engineers, doctors, pharmacists, teachers, writers, guards, hairdressers and accountants.

Government submits 'clarification' of steps to privatise firms to Parliament — deputy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has submitted to Parliament a full clarification of its measures for the privatisation of Jordan's cement and telecommunications companies in order to refine "false rumours" concerning the deals, the head of the House's Finance and Economy Committee, Ali Abul Ragheb, said Tuesday.

Speaking after a meeting between the committee and Prime Minister Faysal Tarawneh during which the privatisation process was discussed, Abul Ragheb said the discussions were open and transparent and covered the general economic situation in Jordan, matters related to the 1999 fiscal budget and spending priorities.

Tarawneh told the committee that the government has received an offer for the purchase of 33 per cent of the state's shares in the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC), said Abul Ragheb, who stressed that the offer will be fully debated by the Cabinet.

Last week, the government and French cement giant Lafarge wrapped up a JD72 million deal for the 33 per cent stake in the JCFC. According to the government, the deal will provide the company with new technology and marketing skills as well as bring in desperately needed foreign investment to help resuscitate the country's stagnant economy.

But critics said Lafarge, now the single largest shareholder in the company, could eventually gain control of the firm's decision-making body. A group of 53 deputies opposed to the sale urged the government to abandon plans to sell its shares not only in the cement factory, but also in the telecommunications company.

Abul Ragheb said there is no truth in what has been rumoured about the cement deal and about involving a strategic partner. The French firm did not make special demands and it will not have a say in the company's decision-making processes.



Ali Abul Ragheb

according to Abul Ragheb.

He added that the privatisation of the cement company will not have negative consequences on present employees, who Abul Ragheb said will keep their jobs.

According to Abul Ragheb, the privatisation of the cement company is in line with earlier recommendations by the Finance Committee.

Under the terms of the deal, Lafarge cannot sell its shares for 10 years. Abul Ragheb the French firm will help improve the quality of produced cement and help the country confront any future challenges in terms of modern technology and marketing.

House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Snour was present at the meeting.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Ali returns from journey

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Ali Ben Hussein returned to Jordan on Tuesday after a 45-day trek to the Caucasus region of Russia, where he attended a peace festival. Prince Ali's trip, which followed an invitation by the president of the Adygei Republic, aimed at advancing understanding among nations. Prince Ali led a team of 14 Circassian riders on a horseback journey through Syria and Turkey that began on Sept. 9.

'7 killed in road accidents last week'

AMMAN (Petra) — Seven people were killed and 41 injured in 786 road accidents during the third week of this month, the Traffic Department said Tuesday. Amman accounted for 58.6 per cent of the accidents, followed by Irbid with 11.4 per cent, Zarqa with 9.8 per cent, and Balqa with 6.5 per cent.

Yemeni minister inspects university

AMMAN (Petra) — Yemeni Minister of Education Yahya Shu'aibi on Tuesday inspected the University of Jordan, where he was briefed by its acting president, Issam Za'balawi, on its mission and teaching programme as well as its contribution to scientific research. Shu'aibi also visited the National Centre for Human Resources Development and was briefed by its president, Munther Masri, on its activities.

Badran returns from Tokyo

AMMAN (Petra) — The director general of the Palestinian Affairs Department, Ibrahim Badran, returned Tuesday from Tokyo after taking part in a celebration held to mark U.N. Human Rights Day, which was organised by the United Nations University. In a statement on his arrival, Badran, who heads the human rights unit at the Prime Ministry, said he presented a working paper on the Palestinian question, Palestinian refugees and the role of the U.N. and its moral and humanitarian commitments to them.

Government, foreign firms to discuss pumping gas from Egypt

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will at the end of this month initiate contacts with two foreign firms to pump liquefied gas from Egypt to the Kingdom through pipelines, according to Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hani Mulki.

In an interview published Tuesday in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i, Mulki said Italian and American firms have already secured the Egyptian government's approval to lay the pipelines at a point starting east of Port Said towards the Suez Canal and extending underwater to Aqaba. From Aqaba, the pipeline will continue along the Desert Highway to reach the Shidieh phosphate mines and the Rashadieh cement factories as well as Al Hussein thermal power station in Zarqa, he added.

The gas is needed at Shidieh to help produce phosphoric acid, while the Rashadieh cement factory and the Zarqa power station will use the gas to generate electricity, according to the minister.

The government will also explore the possibility of selling the gas pumped from Egypt to the Palestinian self-rule areas, Syria and Turkey, Mulki said.

He said Jordan welcomes the idea of creating a special harbour in Aqaba to receive gas not only from Egypt but also from Saudi Arabia in order to help integrate Jordan into a regional oil and gas network.

The government wants the private sector to be involved in this project under special anti-monopoly arrangements to ensure that the gas can be sold at reasonable prices, the minister said.

Mulki added that the government will need up to \$600,000 to finance a feasibility study on the project.

In reply to a question on the prospects of building an oil refinery at Aqaba, Mulki said such a project would have to be carried out by the private sector. But he added that Jordan does not wish to have a refinery or a power station to meet local needs only, but rather establishments that would export 90 per cent of production to other countries to be economically feasible.

Rights group says government failed to respond to requests

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — The Jordan chapter of the Arab Organisation for Human Rights on Tuesday charged the government with not responding to its requests, including visits to detention centres and jails in the country.

"No permission was granted this year to the organisation to visit prisons and detention centres, most of which are overcrowded and lack necessary facilities," the organisation's chairperson, Najeeb Rashdan, said at a press conference held to announce the AOHR's plans for celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

on Dec. 10.

Rashdan said those detained in police centres are crowded "like sardines" for many days in small rooms lacking toilets.

"The law stipulates that no person should be detained in these centres for more than 48 hours. But the concerned authorities keep transferring detainees from one centre to another every 48 hours," Rashdan said.

He said that one person, who he identified as Yousef Abu Ajlan, spent a total of 72 days in different police centres. "The detainees visited almost every police station in the capital and later was transferred to Zarqa."

"When we receive complaints from citizens, we forward them to the concerned authority, but 90 per cent of these requests remain unanswered," Rashdan, a former judge, told reporters.

"We cannot say that Jordan's human rights record has improved this year. We still receive complaints from citizens whose relatives were detained for long periods without any justification," he added.

Rashdan noted that among the complaints the organisation receives are arrests of political activists, beatings of detainees in police centres, passport confiscations, travel bans and house arrests.

Rashdan provided no estimates of the number of persons arrested this year, but

said the organisation will issue its annual report later this year.

Government officials have repeatedly said that arrests of wanted persons are conducted according to law with the issuance of arrest warrants by the concerned authorities. They have also denied accusations that the security authorities are holding any political prisoners.

According to Rashdan, the organisation plans to mark the 50th anniversary of the human rights document with seminars in different parts of the country with the participation of government officials, engineers, lawmakers, judges, representatives of political parties and women activists.

what's going on

FILMS

* "Sangre y arena" (in Spanish) at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman on Thursday Oct. 29 at 5:00 p.m. (Tel. 4610856).
* Children's film "Shakespeare, the Animated Tales" (Hammur) at the British Council, Jabal Amman at 5:00 p.m.
* Broadcast News at the American Center, Abdoun on Thursday Oct. 29 at 5:00 p.m.

CONCERTS

* Musical performance by Freddy for Music at the Royal cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m. (Daily until Oct. 29).
* Musical performance by Lexi Haddadin (soprano) and Mohammad Othman Sidiq (piano) at the Union Bank for Investment and Savings hall at 8:00 p.m. (The programme features songs from opera works set to music by Verdi, Mozart and Strauss as well as Arab songs by the Rahbani Brothers).

SYMPOSIUM

* Symposium on "Woman's Status and Rights" (in English) with the participation of Berlin senator Mrs. Renate Neu-

bert, Lawyer Asma Khader, and Legal Advisor Rihab Qudmani (sponsored by the Goethe-Institut) at Radisson SAS Hotel (9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.).

MEDIA FORUM

* "Media Forum" series on "USAID's Role in Promoting Economic Opportunities in Jordan" presented by panelist Mr. Jamal Al Jabiri, project management specialist/private sector at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Jordan at the American Center auditorium, Abdoun at 4:00 p.m. (Mr. Jamal Al Jabiri will outline USAID initiatives in the fields of microfinance, economic policy reforms, and business services. The demonstration will discuss USAID's goals and achievements in creating economic opportunities in Jordan).

EXHIBITIONS

* "Masterworks of the Spanish Contemporary Architecture and Presentation of Architecture Guide: Spain 1920-2000" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 6.

* Display of sculptures, album of 12 silk screens, ink draw-

ings, and other artwork by artist Mona Saudi at her residence, Abdoun, Mustafa Kamel Street (Telefax 5929700), until Oct. 29.

* Ceramics by Za'id and Ahmad Al Delaimi at Hammurabi Arts Gallery, Gardens St. (Tel. 5534988), until Nov. 5.

* Display of autumn collection at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre, off Wadi Saqra St. until Oct. 31 (Tel. 5699141/2).

* Exhibition of works by Palestinian artist Kamal Boullata entitled "Homage to Jerusalem," an exhibition of paintings by late Palestinian artist Zulfia Al Sa'di, an exhibition by Palestinian-American photographer Sa'id Nuseibah entitled "The Farthest Mosque" at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Nov. 12 (Tel. 4643251/2).

* "Calligraphy on Crafts" at the Jordan Craft Centre (Al Aydi, Jabal Amman (Tel. 4644555), until October 31.

LECTURE

* The Dome of the Rock, Between Architecture and Urbanism" by Abdullah Ghoshah at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh on Thursday Oct. 29 at 6:00 p.m.

Netanyahu delays cabinet vote on Mideast peace deal

(Continued from page 1)

"It seems that once again Netanyahu is going to succumb to the political blackmail by the herds of settlers and extremists."

It shows that Netanyahu has unwillingly signed the agreement... under the threat of the U.S. president," he told Reuters.

Asked if the sides had agreed on a timetable for presentation of a working plan for fighting terrorism, Asfour said:

"Netanyahu can ask his defence minister and the CIA director."

He declined to elaborate.

The CIA is meant to oversee and review the implementation of Palestinian security measures.

The statement said Netanyahu would convene the cabinet "to endorse the agreement immediately after receiving the Palestinian working plan for fighting against terrorism."

Netanyahu's government, formed in 1996, is made up largely of Jewish religious and rightist parties long opposed to giving up any of the West Bank land Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

At least 12 injured as two bombs explode in Karachi

KARACHI (AFP) — At least a dozen people were injured as two bombs exploded Tuesday in Pakistan's violence-plagued port city of Karachi, police and witnesses said.

More than two dozen vehicles were destroyed or damaged in the explosions, they said.

The first bomb went off at a police guard post near the Sindh provincial assembly building and injured six people including three passers-by and a policeman, police said.

The explosion destroyed the post and a vehicle parked nearby.

A second bomb planted in a car exploded outside the busy passport office and injured at least six people, witnesses said.

Two dozen vehicles parked along the road outside the office were damaged or destroyed.

Witnesses at the checkpoint site said a taxi driver, with blood all over his body, was rushed to hospital along with five other injured, as hundreds of panic-stricken people thronged the area.

The explosion shattered windows in a nearby residential building, injuring a woman who sat in a balcony.

"It exploded with a bang. And then I saw a policeman falling down on the road just yards away from the

checkpoint," said Mohammed Nawaz, a shopkeeper. The policeman had just left the checkpoint and was standing only yards away.

Ambulances, fire brigades and dozens of vehicles of paramilitary troops and police immediately gathered at the two sites and bomb disposal squads searched for clues in the debris.

"These are acts of terrorism aimed at spreading panic among citizens of Karachi," a senior police official M.R. Channa told AFP.

Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the blasts.

The authorities beefed up security around main government installations and patrolling was intensified.

"We have put the police force on high alert," said a police official.

Bomb disposal squad chief Moeen Uddin said the bomb planted in the police post was a home-made device containing 200-300 grammes of explosives which ripped the concrete slabs.

The details about the second bomb were not immediately available.

Six blasts in June and July in Karachi injured about two dozen people but caused no deaths.

Seven people, including two policemen, were shot dead in Karachi Sunday

and Monday.

Earlier a former provincial governor of southern Sindh province, Hakim Mohammad Saeed, was shot dead by unknown assailants on Oct. 17.

The 78-year-old educator, philanthropist and practitioner of traditional herbal medicine was killed along with two of his associates.

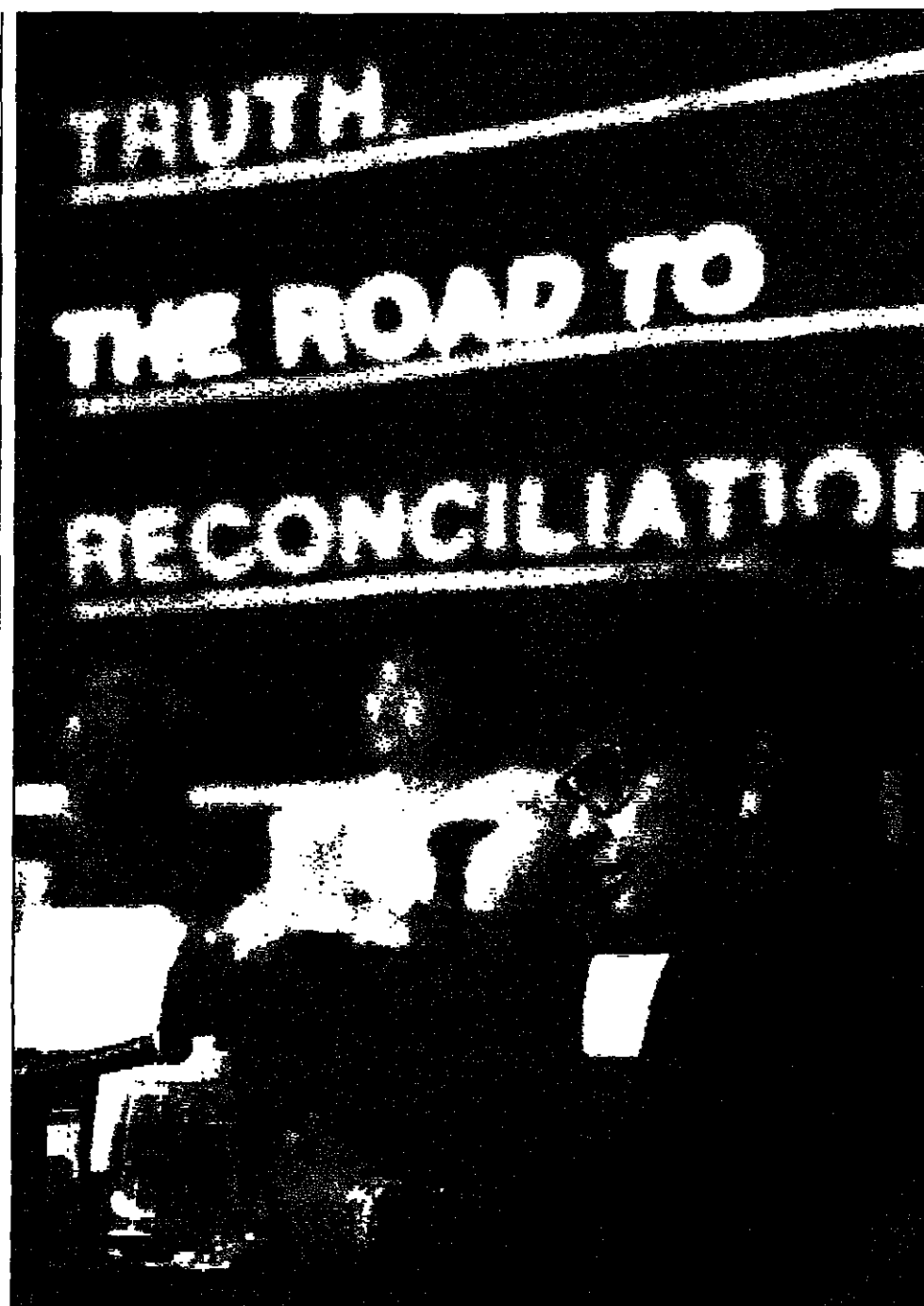
About a thousand people have died in violence in the city since January.

Several provincial government officials have also been killed but most of the victims were said to be activists or supporters of the ethnic Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) and its breakaway, MQM-Haqiqi faction.

The MQM, which represents Urdu-speaking settler community here, has been at loggerheads with MQM-Haqiqi since the party split in two in 1992. The main MQM is allied to the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (PML) of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

The party has accused intelligence agencies of supporting its breakaway faction and termed the unrest as a conspiracy to eliminate the MQM. The charges have been denied.

Police linked the unrest to rivalry between political factions and hundreds of criminal groups operating in the city, which has a population of around 14 million.



Winnie Madikizela Mandela attends the special TRC hearing in Johannesburg. The TRC report is due to be handed to President Nelson Mandela by the chair Archbishop Desmond Tutu Thursday (Reuters photo)

Court to hear de Klerk's bid against truth report

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — The Cape High Court will Wednesday hear an application by South African former President Frederik de Klerk to have sections of the Truth Commission's report withheld, his spokesman said.

De Klerk's application against the report by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was postponed Tuesday to allow TRC lawyers to read court papers, the spokesman, Dave Steward, told reporters.

The TRC report, which is likely to implicate de Klerk in the cover-up of state-sponsored terror bombings, will be made public

Thursday.

Press reports say it will finger the last apartheid president as "an accessory after the fact" to the 1980s bombings of the offices of two anti-apartheid organizations.

The 3,000-page report is expected to say that de Klerk, now 64, did not order the bombings but knew about the involvement of then-law and order Minister Adriaan Vlok and then-Police Commissioner Johan Van der Merwe in the blasts.

By failing to report this to the police, de Klerk apparently became an accessory.

De Klerk has denied any

involvement in assassinations, torture and other abuses committed by the previous government's security forces and has not applied to the TRC for amnesty for any apartheid-era crimes.

He was implicated in knowing about the bombings of the headquarters of the South African Council of Churches and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) during an amnesty application by Vlok, now 60, for the blasts.

Steward told reporters that an out-of-court settlement was not yet on the cards but could not entirely be ruled out.

Child cancer linked to industrial pollution

LONDON (KUNA) — An alarming new link between industrial pollution and childhood cancer was shown by a study tracing victims to their birthplaces, according to a report published in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, Tuesday.

Researchers led by Dr. Estelle Gilman, from the Leukaemia Research Fund Centre for clinical epidemiology, University of Leeds, northern England, identified the birthplace of more than 9,000 children who had moved house after they were

born and later died from cancer.

A correlation was seen between where the children were born and hazardous industrial sites.

Their birth places tended to be closer to sources of industrial pollution than the areas in which they died.

The scientists concluded proximities to several types of industrial source, around the time of birth, were followed by a raised risk of childhood cancer. Combustion products and volatile organic compounds were especially implicated.

The researchers sus-

pected that mothers acted as a cumulative filter, concentrating dangerous chemicals in their bodies and passing them on to their offspring.

Cancer-producing substances could either have passed through the placenta to the foetus in the womb, or been present in breast milk.

The new study examined 22,458 deaths under the age of 16 from leukaemia and other cancers in Britain between 1953 and 1980. Among these 9,224 cases were identified where a child had moved house between birth and death.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Omagh gets lottery money for reconstruction

OMAGH, Northern Ireland (AP) — The town that suffered the worst terrorist strike in Northern Ireland's 30-year conflict has been awarded £900,000 (\$1.5 million) in lottery money for an extensive rebuilding programme, officials announced Tuesday. A car bomb planted by Irish Republican Army dissidents exploded in Omagh on Aug. 15, killing 29 people and injuring 370. The Heritage Lottery Fund money will be used to help reconstruct Lower Market Street, which took the brunt of the blast. "This is very timely, coming just as demolition work is complete and we are about to try and move forward," said John McKinney, chief executive of the Omagh District Council. McKinney said some of the money also will be spent on creating a memorial to the victims of the bomb. "Most people would like to see some sort of reflective area, but they also want to see something different there," he said. "They don't want to have to look at that street and see it how it was on Aug. 15."

French police make big cocaine haul, arrest traffickers

PARIS (AFP) — French police seized 184 kilogrammes of cocaine and arrested a group of international drug traffickers, police said Tuesday. The traffickers were arrested Monday. The drug seized in the Paris region in one of the biggest hauls in France in recent years, police said, adding that the cocaine had a street value of 200 million francs (about \$36.4 million). Police said they also seized firearms and a large sum of money, without specifying the amount.

47 killed in Russia's fleet this year

MOSCOW (AP) — Forty-seven sailors in Russia's Northern Fleet have been killed or committed suicide so far this year, a news agency said Tuesday. Twelve were killed by their colleagues, 14 committed suicide and the rest died in accidents. ITAR-TASS reported, citing the military prosecutor's office. Abysmal living conditions, ritual hazings and weak morale have contributed to a steady string of shootings and suicides in the military. About 50 soldiers were killed by other servicemen last year, and about 500 committed suicide, according to the military. Suicide has also become widespread among officers, who go without pay for months and are unable to support their families.

Airline pilots warned about Viagra

DALLAS (AP) — Airline pilots are being warned that Viagra can impair the ability to distinguish between blue and green, colours frequently used in cockpit instrument displays and taxiway lights at airports. The Dallas Morning News reported Tuesday. Officials with the Federal Aviation Administration say flight doctors are being urged to tell pilots not to fly within six hours after a dose of the impotency treatment drug. "Although only 3 per cent of all patients report visual disturbances, this blue-green impairment could be dangerous," while flying at night or in bad weather, said Air Force Dr. Donato Borillo, who wrote about the subject in the fall edition of the Federal Air Surgeon's Medical Bulletin. In addition to problem with colours, "full attention to the instrument scan and the task at hand may be compromised," Borillo wrote. American Airlines spokesman John Hotard said he's not aware of any pilots taking the drug. "I'm not sure there are that many who would admit they needed it," Hotard told the newspaper. Dr. Warren Silberman, the FAA doctor who manages the government's flight-physical programme, said he knew of no accidents or incidents attributable to the little blue pills. "But we have had a tremendous number of pilots and medical examiners calling in and asking: What about Viagra?" he said. The answer, Silberman said, is simple: "Six hours from Viagra to throttle."

German railway to invest in high speed links and greater safety

BERLIN (AFP) — The German railway, Deutsche Bahn, said Tuesday that it planned to invest billions of marks (dollars) over the coming years in an effort to lure passengers away from airlines and on to trains. Deutsche Bahn chairman Johannes Ludewig said that billions of marks would be invested in the high speed rail network, and the travelling time of Germany's ICE high speed trains would be substantially reduced to a maximum of three to three and a half hours between the main urban areas. "Only then is there a real chance that a significant number of passengers would switch from air travel to rail travel," Ludewig said. Deutsche Bahn plans to have invested 35 billion marks (\$21 billion) in its high speed network alone by 2002, the chairman said. Ludewig said that safety standards would be brought up to those seen in air travel following the fatal crash at the north German town of Eschede earlier this year. The crash, which killed 101 people, had been caused by a fractured wheel. The refitting of first-generation ICE trains with new wheels would be completed by the end of October, Ludewig said.

Couch potatoes sit out marathon

BEAVER, Pennsylvania (AP) — On your mark. Get set. Soaf! This year's Couch Potato Marathon got off in true sedentary style with contestants relaxing on a well-worn couch and watching a videotape of the course they did not run. "I had to come in uniform," said contestant Larry Kempa, who wore a navy blue jogging suit and a pair of pristine white sneakers. Participants in Sunday's non-marathon collected pledges for each of the 42 kilometres of open highway none would ever jog. The proceeds will help finance Beaver's first homeless shelter. Two couches — one a tweedy brown, one a floral chaise longue — were parked in front of a television set. On the screen was the course video, with a red arrow pointing to the centre of the screen that said: "You are not here." Non-racers were treated to a miniature golf booth, various games, crafts and food. A high school band provided the entertainment and inspired two couch potatoes to actually get up and dance. Mary Hamilton, programme coordinator for Housing Enterprises and Local Programmes, came up with the idea while driving. "I spend too much time driving in my car. We were trying to think of something novel to help the homeless," she said. Her first thought was to run a marathon, but as Ms. Hamilton put it: "That's too much work for us."

TV cook gets roasting for show

LONDON (R) — Britain's leading television chef was in hot water Tuesday for teaching the nation's notoriously bad cook how to boil an egg. Delia Smith, Britain's best-selling cookery writer and dispenser of motherly wisdom in the kitchen for more than 20 years, has also been given a roasting for giving TV viewers detailed instructions on how to make toast. Gary Rhodes, spiky-haired rival chef, slammed Smith's back to basics television programme as "offensive and insulting to people's intelligence." Rhodes, 38, whose culinary style is more brulee than boiled, said: "I don't need to be shown what boiling water looks like and I think that the rest of the population don't need to be shown it either. I really don't believe that the majority of people cannot boil an egg." A recent opinion poll highlighted the limitations of Britons in the kitchen. Of those who said they cook, 36 per cent listed making sandwiches as their main cookery skills, and 31 per cent cited toast.

Tampering main cause of civilian landmine casualties in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — A Cambodian report on victims of landmines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Tuesday showed tampering with the devices was the leading cause of civilian casualties.

Despite progress in Cambodia's efforts to get rid of landmines and UXO, the report, released by the Cambodian Red Cross, showed civilians remained the primary victims of the leftovers of war.

Demining and humanitarian experts here agreed that education was key to lowering casualty rates.

"The main cause for this is either stupidity or curiosity, probably more so with children," said Paul Heslop, Cambodia programme manager for international demining agency Halo Trust, one of several operating here.

"Male adults between 15 and 35 are basically taking the mines to pieces to use the explosives for fishing, or to sell the scrap metal, or both. This is a main cause of accidents in Laos as well," he added.

The report comes as more than 200 experts from around the globe meet in the capital of this conflict-ravaged country for a conference promoting cooperation between nations plagued by mines and finding ways of lowering their injury toll.

"Taken as a whole, the activity and territory data point to

patterns among the civilian population that may be addressed through mine awareness and other forms of community education," the Red Cross report said.

It said more than 52 per cent of nearly 1,000 Cambodian mine and UXO casualties in the first nine months of this year were civilians. "Occupational data shows that civilians account for the overwhelming share of incidents involving UXO," it said, adding nearly half of those killed and maimed by landmines alone were non-military people.

The report, compiled with the help of non-governmental organisations, said 86 per cent of UXO casualties were civilians, with 47 per cent of the incidents occurring inside villages.

Some 40 per cent of landmine casualties were civilian, with most incidents happening while people were farming or collecting food. "Such a disproportionate amount of UXO incidents occurring in the village suggests that many accidents happen when UXO are brought into the village and tampered with," the report said.

"Tampering is also the leading cause of injury to those 15 years of age and younger," it added. A full 43 per cent of all civilian mine and UXO casualties were a result of tampering with the devices, while 17 per cent were maimed or injured

while collecting wood and 12 per cent while travelling. The explosives littering this country are the legacy of decades of conflict involving the notorious Khmer Rouge rebels and years of civil war between a Vietnam-backed government and its opponents.

North Vietnamese Army activities during the Vietnam War and the U.S. response also share a large measure of the blame.

The United States dropped more than 500,000 tonnes of bombs on Cambodia during the conflict, many of which failed to detonate, according to the government's Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC).

But the Red Cross report showed the number of casualties in Cambodia between January and September this year had fallen 13 per cent compared with the same period of 1997, to 973 people.

There were 1,369 casualties in the whole of 1997 and 2,766 in 1996. "Casualties used to be 300 or 400 a month. A lot of things are happening, including education," said Sam Seta, director of the government's Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC).

"Three or four years ago, we guessed it would take 170 years to clear all the landmines, and now we estimate 30 years," he said, adding there were some four to six million mines planted in the country and many more UXO.

Hurricane Mitch roars off Honduran coast

LA CEIBA, Honduras (AP) — Honduras braced for potential catastrophe Tuesday as Hurricane Mitch roared through the northwest Caribbean with heart-stopping strength, churning up high waves and intense rain that sent coastal residents fleeing for safer ground.

President Carlos Flores Facusse declared a state of maximum alert and the Honduran military sent planes to pluck residents

from their homes on islands near the coast.

At 7 a.m. EST (1200 GMT) Tuesday, Mitch was 145 kilometres north of Honduras. With winds near 290 kph, and even higher gusts, it was a Category 5 monster — the highest, most dangerous rating for a storm. The 565-kilometre wide hurricane was moving west at 13 kph.

"Mitch is closing in," said Monterrey Cardenas, mayor of Utiia, an island

30 kilometres off the Honduran coast.

"And God help us," Mitch posed no immediate threat to the United States, forecasters said, but was expected to remain in the northwest Caribbean for the next five days.

The U.S. National Weather Service in Miami said Mitch could weaken "somewhat, but warned it would still remain a very dangerous hurricane" capable of

causing catastrophic damage.

The entire coast of Honduras was under a hurricane warning and up to 38 centimetres of rain was forecast in mountain areas.

The Honduran president closed schools and public offices on the coast Monday and ordered all air force planes and helicopters to evacuate people from the Islas de la Bahia, a string of small islands off the

country's central coast.

The head of the Honduran armed forces, Gen. Mario Hung Pacheco, said 5,000 soldiers were standing by to help victims of the storm, but he warned the military could not reach everyone.

"For that humanitarian work, we would need more than 300 Hercules C-137 planes," he said. "Honduras doesn't have them." A hurricane warning was also in effect for

the Caribbean coast of Guatemala.

In Belize, the government Tuesday issued a hurricane warning.

Schools were closed and workers sent home early Monday. Panic buying stripped bread from the shelves of some stores and some gasoline stations ran dry. Coastal Belize City was hit so hard by Hurricane Hattie in 1961 that the country built a new capital inland at Belmopan.

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Example worth emulating

SOUTH AFRICA'S Truth and Reconciliation Commission formed to deal with the past apartheid era is a practice that is worth emulating elsewhere in our troubled world. President Nelson Mandela has earned many awards for his struggle for equality in his country but his decision to create the commission is truly a magnanimous move. The commission's mandate was initially to reconcile the majority black community with the white minority in the new South Africa in a harmonious mould by seeking to establish the truth about the abuses committed by the apartheid regime before the healing process could start. Mandela's initiative was a success. Only through such processes of rewriting history and documenting its pitfalls can peoples of different races, religions or ethnic origins, recognise their prejudices, mistakes and bigotries and fathom their devastating effects on peoples' lives.

What is also outstanding about the South African commission is its latest move to broaden the scope of its mandate in order to uncover human rights violations committed by the ruling African National Congress (ANC) during its struggle against the minority white regime that ruled the country with an iron fist until the ANC assumed power through a democratic process based on pluralism. The commission has recently found that the ANC could be guilty of many serious human rights violations that deserve investigation and accountability. This latest move strengthens and enhances the prestige, credibility and integrity of the commission and makes it the wonder of recent political developments on the international arena. In effect what the commission is saying is that national liberation movements must also respect human rights and abide by their constraints. This is something that we can and should emulate in the Middle East, the scene of many liberation movements.

The example of South Africa could be very useful in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict since it offers the most viable and operational way to remove the stigmas of old animosities, mistrust and hatred. There is no doubt that in the post-peace process era between Israel and its Arab neighbours, there will come a time when the peoples concerned would wish to follow in the footsteps of South Africa and establish their own truth and reconciliation process so that peace turns into a process by which peoples identify with the grievances of their opponents.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Rai's Tareq Masarwah commented on the confusing reports surrounding the interim deal signed between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Israel in Washington. Rumours say the texts of the agreement in English, Arabic and Hebrew differ from each other, said Masarwah. He said each side wants to show the gains made from the deal. Palestinian President Yasser Arafat insists that the long-awaited Palestinian state will be announced as scheduled, May 1999, however, some reports say the PNA and the United States agreed to postpone the announcement of the Palestinian state for as long as the final status negotiations are taking place. Israel, on its part, still seem determined to build a settlement in Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arab east Jerusalem, while Clinton also took advantage of the deal to polish his tarnished image, added the writer.

Al Dostour's editorial commented on the recent development in Jordanian-Yemeni relations. The paper said that the meeting between the Higher Jordanian-Yemeni Joint Committee on bilateral cooperation is strong indication that ties between the two Arab countries have become very strong and mostly in the economic sphere, but this development of relations is also very important because of its political implications, said the Arabic daily. The meeting of the Higher Committee reaffirms both countries' similar stands on issues concerning certain Arab and Muslim nations, claimed the paper, which expressed its satisfaction with the growing relations and said it is very optimistic and hopeful for further cooperation.

Washington Watch

Will Clinton's triumph save Mideast peace?

Dr. James J. Zogby

THE NINE-DAY ordeal at the Wye Plantation produced an agreement that can only be described as Bill Clinton's triumph. For over one-third of the time that the Israeli and Palestinian delegations were locked away at that bucolic Maryland retreat centre the president met, argued, cajoled, brainstormed, listened and lectured. His attempts to get into the heads and hearts of both sides, to convince them that he understood their concerns and to pose creative new ways to think through their positions was classic Bill Clinton.

The Palestinians and Israelis came away knowing each other better, although not yet fully trusting each other's commitment to peace. But both sides left Wye trusting Bill Clinton.

The president, who strongly believes in the power of words, sought to create that trust, hoping that his optimism and his confidence would be contagious.

What was important for Clinton was that both leaders, but especially the Israeli prime minister, believe that they had a stake in each other's success. The president believed that only if Netanyahu understood Arafat's and the Palestinian people's aspirations and was committed to helping them achieve their goals, would the process ultimately succeed.

As Clinton has framed this argument, only if the Palestinian aspirations are met will the Israeli people be secure and only if the Israelis are secure will the Palestinian people be able to achieve their rights. If peace is to succeed, both leaders and peoples must become invested in each other's needs and both must work to support and strengthen each other. The deal that was signed by the Israeli prime minister and the Palestinian president was, of course, only an interim step-but it was Bill Clinton's handiwork that produced that step. Now it will be up to the Israelis and Palestinians to implement the deal and make it real.

As the president spoke at the White House, he urged the two peoples to continue to build trust and create confidence and to contribute to each other's success.

He spoke passionately about Israeli security and how this agreement will enhance that goal. He also spoke equally passionately, more than any previous president, about the Palestinian people's aspirations. In fact, in the past 10 months, Clinton has dramatically altered the U.S. public discourse about Palestinian rights.

I remember in 1988 when I debated the issue of Palestinian rights before the Democratic Party's National Convention. At one point I sought to insert the words "Palestinian people" in the party's resolution on the Middle East. It was rejected because to say "people," I

was told, was to give the Palestinians recognition as a national community with the right to self-determination. In 1991 at the Madrid Conference the Israeli government's spokesperson Benjamin Netanyahu displayed this same attitude at his infamous press conference when he refused to say the words "Palestinian people." He insisted on referring to Palestinians as the "Arab inhabitants of Judea and Samaria."

As a result of Clinton's persistence, the vocabulary of Middle East peace has been permanently changed not only in the United States but among the Likud as well. Clinton repeatedly refers to the "Palestinian people" and has described them as deserving "the right to live as free people." He has further elaborated their rights as including "independence, economic and political self-sufficiency and the right to breathe free." In his comments, as well, Prime Minister Netanyahu spoke of the "Palestinian People." Now some might consider this negligible, but I believe that it represents a significant change in language. The question, of course, that now remains is with the interim agreement signed and the language of discourse changed, what will happen in the weeks and months to come when Israelis and Palestinians begin implementation and move toward final status talks? What we will first look at are the details of the agreement itself.

While the outcomes of the deal are well-known, its inner workings have not yet been revealed. Since the agreement is a compromise of the original U.S. plan, which was a compromise of the Hebron agreement, which was itself a compromise of the Taba Accord, which was a compromise of the... etc, the question Palestinians will want to have answered is "have all these compromises foreclosed any final outcomes or are they merely temporary concessions or half-steps that move in the direction of a just solution?" Have Palestinians lost more than they gained and are whatever concessions have been made, temporary or permanent? Compromises or losses can be acceptable only if they are temporary, especially since Palestinians have given up so much already.

This will become clear both in the details of the accords and in its implementation. If settlements continue to be built, land confiscated, roads constructed with increasing losses of Palestinian lands and rights than the agreement will not move the process forward and trust and confidence will not emerge.

Similarly Palestinians will look to see if reciprocity is built into the agreement and its implementation. The Palestinian's agreement to restrain extremists and to refrain from violence and incitement must be matched by

changes in Israeli behaviour. The settlers must be controlled (and not encouraged, as has been current Israeli government policy), and the language of Israeli officials must also be restrained. If Palestinians can no longer speak of the "land of Palestine," then Israelis must stop speaking of "Eretz Israel," "Yeshua" and "Judea and Samaria."

And it will be critical for the Netanyahu government to avoid introducing any provocative caveats — as they did shortly after signing the Hebron Accord when they announced construction of the settlements at Jabal Abu Ghneim.

Prime Minister Netanyahu will no doubt have pressures from his right wing when he returns to Israel, just as President Arafat will face resistance. If Arafat is asked to resist these pressures, Netanyahu must as well. If the Israeli leader seeks to placate hard-liners by new concessions designed to save his anti-peace coalition he will only do damage to the climate of trust and cooperation that President Clinton sought to instill at Wye. And such Israeli concessions to extremists will make it impossible for President Arafat to take measures to restrain Palestinian resistance to the agreement.

At the end of the day the success of President Clinton's gamble will be measured by the details of the agreements and by the willingness of the leaders to implement them and move forward in good faith to resolve the tough issues in final status talks. With only six months left before the end of the Oslo process it would serve Arabs well to watch carefully and to evaluate the situation closely. It is premature to celebrate. It is also too early to criticise what we have not yet seen and what has not yet been given a chance to work.

In the days and weeks ahead the Israelis and Palestinians who support peace will look to see if President Clinton's optimism and creativity have been contagious.

If there are no devils in the details of this agreement, if the agreement in fact moves the parties closer to a just peace and if the implementation is carried out in good faith, then trust may be restored and the entire exercise at Wye will have been worth it.

If the Israeli prime minister has not merely signed a deal in order to escape from Wye, but has, in fact, made a commitment to be a real partner with the Palestinians in the search for a mutually beneficial peace, then Bill Clinton's efforts will have succeeded in ending the deadlock in the peace process.

Now I'm not placing any bets, but in the interests of peace I can at least hope and work for a positive outcome.

Of peace, eggs and baskets

By George S. Hishmeh

AT THE Wye Plantation, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat put all his eggs in the American basket and returned home with his delegation utterly pleased that U.S.-Palestinian relations have now entered "a turning point." On the other hand, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's last-minute blunder at seeking the immediate release of convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard may have squandered whatever capital he had just earned with the Clinton administration. One unconfirmed account said the American leader thought Netanyahu's audacity was "despicable." Others described it as "blackmail."

The Israeli leader, buttressed by his new Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon and Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, was nevertheless in desperate need for a "fig leaf" which Pollard could have temporarily provided. The episode only served to underline Netanyahu's penchant for gimmickry and foolhardiness. One would have thought the Israeli leader or his colleagues would have realised that Clinton, regardless of his weakened position after his sex scandal, could not possibly deliver forthwith. The process is more complex than winning a presidential pardon.

More importantly, the release of Pollard had the potential of robbing Clinton, who is facing an impeachment inquiry by

Congress, of all the praise he has been receiving for his relentless drive at Wye Plantation in rejuvenating the Middle East peace process, in limbo for 18 months. Throughout, the Americans provided a protective shield for the Palestinian leader during the ups and downs of the nine-day talks. Repeatedly American spokesmen, including Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, denied that Arafat had been asked to make any more concessions to get the talks moving, particularly when the Israeli delegation went through the theatrics of packing their bags.

Some Palestinian sources close to the official delegation said Arafat, lacking any meaningful alternative, was convinced that he had to try for American support. His early acceptance of the American proposal for a 13 per cent withdrawal was a calculated risk. At Wye he won American "cover" at almost every point in the agreement: in return Clinton received a kiss from the Palestinian leader on each cheek at the concluding ceremony.

As one critic of this growing "Americanisation of the peace process" has pointed out, the United States was mentioned no less than 13 times in the Wye Memorandum, more than the sum total of all times recorded in the previous Palestinian-Israeli accords.

The "parity" the Palestinians believe they won this time was said to be evident in the American-drafted memorandum.

The "Palestinian side" was on equal footing with the "Israeli side." But the proof of the pudding is in the eating. The faithful implementation of the commitments of either party as spelled in the Wye Memorandum may yet prove the hardest nuts to crack. The Palestinians inexplicably are counting on the Central Intelligence Agency operatives to shield them from wild Israeli charges on security issues.

In this respect, the Israelis with support from Secretary Albright were able to change the theme of the peace process from a land-for-peace enterprise to a land-for-security undertaking. How far will the U.S. come to the aid of the Israelis in the next 12 weeks remains to be seen.

Here it was noteworthy that the fourth item listed under "other issues" adhered to by the Palestinians declared that "the Palestinian Police will exercise powers and responsibilities to implement this Memorandum with due regard to internationally-accepted norms of human rights and the rule of law, and will be guided by the need to protect the public, respect human dignity, and avoid harassment." Arafat's apologists believe this item was included to defend the Palestinian Authority in its crackdown on dissidents and fundamentalists; in other words, there is a limit to its capability, as put by Arafat "we can promise 100 per cent effort but not 100 per cent results." The crucial point in

all this is that Clinton, who has emerged stronger for his admirable role in the Wye Plantation talks, will need to maintain his presidential focus on the next set of obligations — the third redeployment and the launching of the final status talks due to take place on November 2, the ominous anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, which promised the Jewish people a homeland in Palestine provided this did not prejudice the rights of the indigenous people.

Another was the failure at Wye to address effectively the question of "unilateral actions" where it was merely reaffirmed that "neither side shall initiate or take any steps that will change the status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in accordance with the Interim Agreement." This is not a foolproof commitment whereby Arafat cannot declare his state next May 4 or that Netanyahu will cease all settlement activity. Realistically, without any quick movement on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, the fulfilment of the Wye accord may be slower than necessary. The Syrians have shown remarkable restraint in their near-confrontation with Turkey over the issue of Kurdish dissidents, insisting on a diplomatic settlement. A push for a settlement on the Golan Heights (and southern Lebanon) will surely contribute to smoother sailing for the Palestinians and Israelis.

Banks and insurance — a lucrative couple

The following is the text of an address given at an Oct. 19-20 seminar in Amman by **Wahib Sheir**, Chairman and Managing Director of Jordan Gulf Insurance Company. The seminar was held in collaboration with the Banks Association, the Jordan Gulf Insurance Company, the Amman Insurance Company and NASCO Karaoglan of France.

BANKING AND insurance have been drawing closer together, over the past two decades, particularly in Western Europe.

In most cases they created partnerships based on complementarity. But in some cases they became competitors, with banks setting up their own insurance subsidiaries, and insurance companies offering banking services, and especially loans. Only time will tell if focusing on core specialisation was the road to success or was unnecessarily restrictive.

Here in Jordan relations between banks and insurance companies have hardly started to develop, perhaps because of the very different relative sizes of the two industries — approximately 1:80 in total assets, or 1:20 in equity etc. Another possible reason is that from the mid-eighties to the mid-nineties insurance companies were protected, and thus competition and initiative were unnecessary. Banks

too were prisoners of very traditional thinking. I hope that we will look back at this occasion and see in it the beginning of the development of Bancassurance in Jordan.

In the coming few minutes I shall try to highlight the main features of the insurance industry in Jordan for the benefit of this gathering of distinguished bankers.

1. This year the total size of premiums written by companies in Jordan will be about JD100,000, i.e. almost 2 per cent of GDP. This is double the average percentage for Arab countries. In financial terms, the Arab average is \$30. However we remain considerably behind the developed world where the percentage of premiums to GDP exceeds ten. We have a long way yet to go.

2. Insurance companies in the Arab World on the average retain only 30 per cent of premiums, and reinsure the rest. The world average is about 60-70 per cent retention. Jordan is more similar to the international pattern, and is therefore more developed than the rest of the Arab World in this regard. This is of particular significance if we remember that there is normally little re-insurance of motor business which in Jordan amounted in 1997 to about 43 per cent of total premiums. Part of this phenomenon is due to co-insurance among Jordanian companies of the larger risks. It is also important to remember,

that more retention of premiums makes possible the accumulation of larger reserves which seek investment.

3. The ratio of shareholders' rights to premiums in Jordan is about 75 per cent. This is very high, and probably three or four times the international average. The present equity is therefore sufficient for many years to come. In this respect Jordan is very much like the rest of the Arab World, i.e. insurance companies are over-capitalised.

4. Life and medical business amounted in Jordan in 1997 to about 25 per cent of all premiums, compared to about 60 per cent in the world as a whole. However in Jordan this business is growing more rapidly than non-life insurance. Jordan is ahead of the rest of the Arab World in this respect, because in the oil rich countries the state provides medical services freely, and in the poor Arab countries neither the state nor the ordinary individual can afford it.

However, life insurance in particular is the source of large accumulated reserves, which can reach several multiples of the premiums, as in the case of pension funds. This is what makes insurance companies a major source of the funds which industry needs for investment. And this is in particular the area of greatest cooperation between banks and insurance companies.

The role of Jordanian insurance companies in funding investment in Jordan will be continuously growing. It is important here to remember the need to keep these investments in Jordan in view of the continuous liberalisation of the Jordan economy and the recent full convertibility of the Jordan dinar. Today these investments amount to JD47 million.

5. One of the areas that require development of regulation and supervision on the one hand, and professional expertise on the other, is the management of the assets of insurance companies, which I feel today suffers from some disorder. Insurance companies in Jordan operate today without guidance in structuring and managing their assets in currencies, deposits, bonds, stocks and real estate. This appears to be an area of potential cooperation between banks and insurance companies.

6. Finally in view of the crucial role of insurance as outlined above it is surprising that insurance companies have to pay 35 per cent income tax while industry or tourism etc., which are increasingly funded by insurance companies pay only 15 per cent. The same argument applies to banking. Without banking and insurance economic development will be difficult. They should not therefore be penalised.

Correction

IN THE article "Peace Treaty anniversary far from festive" October 26, we erroneously referred to Metri Twaal as the General Manager of 5 Continents Travel Services. He is in fact Sales and Marketing Manager. The Jordan Times apologises for any inconvenience.

The Jordan Times seeks to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the Jordan Times at the numbers mentioned elsewhere on this page.

Save water... every drop counts!

Features

An 82-year-old anachronism that shouldn't be forgotten

By Ann Treneman

BY RIGHTS, Luis Munos shouldn't have much of a story to tell, except the kind that we can all claim. His life was an ordinary one and, if it hadn't been for General Augusto Pinochet, it probably would have continued as such. Luis's error was to be young, Chilean and of the Left at the time of the coup on 11 September 1973. Never mind that he was hardly a revolutionary, working in the National Planning Office as a civil servant. It was through his job that he had met a young woman named Diana Aron. She worked for a publisher and had carried out research into Chile's ruling classes. At the time of the coup, they were newly-weds. Luis was 25, she was 22. Now he is 50 and lives in Brighton. His story is hard to tell but he wants to tell it because it is important, even after all these years, to bear witness to evil.

It was only a few days after the coup that the Ministry of Defence in Santiago broadcast a list of names wanted for questioning. Diana Aron's was among them. The accusation was that office equipment had been destroyed at the publisher's. Diana and Luis knew this wasn't so because they had gone and checked for themselves. It was a time of terrible chaos. "My office was occupied by the military. Gun battles were everywhere," says Luis. "I saw them shooting people in the street, bodies were everywhere. I was stopped and searched. I was just lucky that they didn't shoot me. We didn't believe it was going to be so brutal." He and Diana learnt that people reporting to the Ministry of Defence were being shot. They were told that Pinochet's people were looking for them and not to go home. They didn't.

For the next year or so they had no address, moving from place to place as their safety warranted. By November, Diana was three months pregnant. They were part of the resistance by now and knew what they were up against. They had a pact that if one of them didn't return by 8 p.m. on any given evening, then they would know the other had been arrested. One day, Diana decided to go and see her sister and took a taxi. It was 18 November 1974 — two years to the day after they had met. Luis never saw her again. "I don't know what happened. I gathered later on that someone had called her name, she had run and was shot in the back several times." He believes she survived the shooting and was taken for interrogation. "Later, I met a guard who told me she was interrogated, even with her wounds. He said: 'That woman, she really loved you — she loved you more than your mother — because not a word came from her mouth.'"

Back at the house, Luis knew something was wrong. He knew he was supposed to leave but could not do it. "I was just desperate. The father of a friend was in the house. I stayed in hope. I cried but I didn't want him to hear me so I went to the shower. I don't know how many showers I took. I washed her clothes. It was very strange. I thought maybe they will bring her home and she will need some clothing."

The next morning, he came to his senses and left. He took over Diana's job. It was risky and he knew they were searching for him. Then, not even a month after his wife had disappeared, he went to a meeting, only to find himself surrounded by five or six cars. He had often imagined the scene of his capture but had always assumed the men would wear uniforms and would drive military jeeps. Instead, one of the cars was for an airline company, another for the electricity company. The eight or so men were holding guns. In the background, there were children playing with toy machine guns. The men ordered him to drop his briefcase, which held some underwear and socks and a bottle of after-shave. He refused, saying that the bottle would break. He was hit in the face by the butt of a gun. He fell to the ground. They taped his eyes and tied his hands behind his back and shoved him in the back of a car.

Luis was taken to the Villa Grimaldi, no longer hospitable to anyone but torturers. They shouted at him, demanding to know about a car he was supposed to have driven, and where he kept his money. They stripped him and took him into a room which held a metal bed. He was blindfolded and laid naked on the bed on his back, legs spread out. Electrodes were attached to his toes, penis, anus, ears and mouth. To improve the level of shock, they poured cold water over him. There were five or six men in the room and they were shouting over the noise of a radio blasting out at full volume. Luis remembers the sound of a generator. One man stood over him, holding another electrode that he touched to various parts of his body. The shocks were horrendous. "It went on and on and on. They were shouting. 'This is a tough guy, this is a tough guy, let's carry on.' Then I started to see lights and my ears really, really ached." This went on from 11 a.m. until early dark. They only stopped when his heart stopped beating.

He was taken to a room full of people and tied to a bunk. He couldn't move. He was still seeing lights, and was desperately thirsty. The men around him kept saying that he should give up, that there was no hope. "I realised that I was on my own then. I couldn't talk. I couldn't say anything because anyone could be a traitor." The next day he was taken to interrogation again.

This time he was beaten with a hammer. They hung him by his arms and beat his back with a stick and his feet with a hammer. They applied a soldering iron to his testicles and anus. Eventually they dropped him to the ground.

On the third day, he was taken to see an officer who told Luis that they had gone to school together. Luis did not believe him, though the man could recount the names of teachers and students. He then said that his wife was seriously wounded in hospital and that if Luis did not talk, they would stop her treatment. Luis asked the man how he knew all this. "I shot her," he said. "Look, she ran, what was I supposed to do? Say: 'excuse me, Miss.'?" Luis demanded that he be allowed to see his wife.

Nothing ever came of it. Over the next months, he was frequently interrogated, mostly by beating and by applying the soldering iron to his testicles. They used electricity one more time. "They wanted to break you, take away your humanity. With food, you had to hop for it, like a rabbit. Or eat on all fours like a dog. It's part of the torture, to weaken you, degrade you. I was so enraged at that guy about my wife I thought, I'm not going to give them anything. They don't deserve my tears. I saw people begging on their knees. I saw people licking other people's boots, really, to eat." He also saw worse: A man wrapped up in a blanket and kicked, another shot in the hand and the stomach who then had electrodes attached inside his wounds. Both died.

Luis was called on to see the man who said he shot his wife. His name was Miguel Kresonoff. Luis told him that he was never going to tell them anything. "I was calling them bastards. I told them they could destroy my body, rip me apart, but they cannot get inside my head. I told him, 'You are not going to get my mind, so why don't you just kill me now?' You are a murderer, kill me now." They put him in a closet where he could only stand on his feet. He was there for 10 days. He survived by separating his body from his brain. The worst point came after several days, when insects entered the box. His hands and fingers were badly infected, as were his testicles, and insects were crawling over him. "I thought I was going to go mad. That's the great fear. Greater than death. Going mad." His brain devised avenues of escape. He would imagine, for instance, that he was playing the piano "Beethoven, and it was beautiful."

He doesn't know why he wasn't killed — so many were. In March, he was moved from the Villa Grimaldi to an isolation unit. There he saw himself in a mirror and was shocked. He also took a shower and took the chance to wash all his clothes. He stayed naked for

three to four days. Was he mad? "Probably. But I just wanted to wash myself and this body didn't belong to me." He was suicidal and decided he couldn't bear the pain of what had happened. "In one minute you can destroy so much evolution. The screams that you scream are not human. God knows where they come from in the brain. You feel like a prehistoric animal." He recalls, with wonder, that some of his torturers were wearing his clothes.

In April 1975, he was taken to a concentration camp in Santiago. When he walked into the camp, the 500 or so inmates started to clap. He had survived. "They had decided that they weren't going to kill me. I still don't know why." He decided he did not want to kill himself, that somehow he must salvage something of humanity out of all this. In the camp, they were more or less left alone. There was a basement with a water cannon where people were sometimes taken. In August, he was moved to another concentration camp in the north. There, he helped to organise a hunger strike and was again put in isolation. "It was 15 days but felt like an eternity. Then they took us back to Santiago."

On the way, the guards decided to stop by a lake to have a barbecue. They made a fire and broke out the beer. They decided to get the prisoners off the bus and line them up; it was to be an execution. Men started to cry. Luis believed that this, finally, was the end. The guards fired. "They did the whole thing but they were firing blanks. They laughed and had a drink and put us back on the bus."

That was at the end of 1975. He would remain in the Santiago concentration camp for another year. Once more, he was taken for interrogation. Once more, they attached the electrodes to his body. This time he was



Augusto Pinochet and cronies after the '73 coup

lying on the floor. They asked the same questions: Where are the others? Where is the money?

Then, at the end of 1976, the Pinochet regime gave in to international pressure and started to close the camps. There were 2,000 to 3,000 detainees and not all could be tried. Luis wanted to stay in Chile but was told that he had to leave if he wanted to stay alive. He liked the idea of France — his mother had links to that country and he spoke the language — but was told it would be England instead. "By the end of December I landed here. It was cold and covered in snow."

He says the only reason he can tell his story is that he has had 10 years of therapy, and a great deal of help from the pioneering Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, in London. He still wonders why he lived and so many others did not. "Why? Why? Why? You can get rid of lots of pain but it's still always there. You see a face or your back hurts or the tears come back." He assumes Diana is dead but sometimes, on a bus or a train, he thinks he sees her.

— The Independent

Global Village

Africa's image and image of self

By John Gay Yoh

Editors note: This is the first of a three-part series examining Euro-African relationship, the hangover from colonialism, and the steps forward for the African continent, so often neglected and forgotten.

THERE SEEMS to be an urgent need for re-evaluation of current mutual — biased — historical perceptions and basis on which the relations between Europe and Africa were founded. The world has become so small; Europe and Africa have become almost neighbours and partners in so many things, whether cultural, economic or political, that it would be very difficult for any reader in Euro-African historical relations to understand the kind of relations which existed between the two.

Some understanding can be reached if one reads M.D. Jeffrey's famous article "The Negro Enigma" or Gabriel Marcel's book "Creative Fidelity" or similar works by European writers on African culture. The Africa portrayed in these works is of savage Africans incapable of doing or developing. The stereotype conceptions as presented by those learned European historians, ethnographers, anthropologists, and explorers were in essence racist. Africa was perceived as "uncivilised". The core of their argument was that, before the coming of "white man" to Africa there were no roads, no educational institutions, no government agencies, and if you like, there was no civilisation.

It is of course not that there was no written evidence of the achievements of Africa prior to colonialism, but that the colonialists opted to hide these facts, so that slavery and economic exploitation of African lands could be morally justified. Herodotus, the father of the European historians tells us that the Greek culture as we know it today had adopted largely many cultural aspects of the Nile Kingdoms of Egypt, Ethiopia, and Nubia. A German newspaper wrote in an editorial in 1891 that "Africa is poorer in recorded history than can be imagined. The black continent is a continent which has no history or mystery." In fact a fabrication of this magnitude has led some African thinkers, such as H.E.B. DuBois to express their disillusionment in the following manner: "After the Egyptian and Indian, the Greek and Roman, the Teuton and Mongolian, the black man (Negro) is a sort of seventh son, born with a veil and gifted with second-sight... (He found himself) in a world which yields him no true self-consciousness, but only lets him see himself through the revelation of the other world — a white man's world. One looks at himself through the eyes of others... one feels his two-ness, an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings..."

Although the African contribution to the European arts and philosophy is well documented, the bitterness that one feels in DuBois' words seems to emanate from the falsified notion that Africa, as a continent, had no contribution to world history and philosophy. Yet, great African thinkers such as Plotinus, Lady Hypatia, Saint Augustine, the author of the "Two Cities", Origen, Cyril, Tertullian, and several others wrote great works on philosophy and religion. It is also an open secret that several

renowned Greek philosophers and historians such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Herodotus, Hippocrates, Anaxagoras and many others had been taught by people coming originally from Nile kingdoms or had themselves actually visited Egypt. This deliberate attempt to conceal the achievements of African thinkers is obvious and traceable. The works of Glanville Aron Antun, who in 1738 wrote his famous book "Theory of Knowledge and Metaphysics" is not often cited by Western historians. Similar works by African historians such as Leo Africanus, Fr. Alexis Kagame, Adesany Adebayo, Fr. Placide Temples and Dr. Dagunah are hardly heard of.

African poets, novelists, playwrights, and philosophers during the last three centuries abound. Great men such as Zai'a Yacobi, Waldu Heywa, Oswald Mshali, Okot p'Bitek, Ezekiel Mphahlele, Alex la Guma, T.M. Aluko, Cyprid Ekwenzi, Onora Nzekwu, Chinua Achebe, James Ngugi and several others, wrote masterpieces on African culture, its identity and history. They emphasise that African cultural philosophy should reflect its identity and should not attempt to copy Western culture and philosophy. Moreover, it should express itself in a language which is permeated with its own unique tradition. These writers believe that Africa should lead the rest of the world in those universal human values which it is so rich in. The African contribution to the world parsimony of logic, ethics, metaphysics, politics and philosophy has to be revived and maintained. It is sufficient to note that the best computer programmer in the world today is a Nigerian residing in the U.S.

Will the Euro-African relations witness a new dawn as the two nations enter the 21st century? The immediate answer is yes, if the stereotyped mentality of 19th century colonial Europe fades away. For example, inconsistent with Western colonial mentality, the concept of world culture is divided into two cultures according to the German anthropologist, Frobenius: the Hamitic, which is a civilisation that emphasises the animal world, which attempts to dominate nature by mechanical means — scientific if you like. This civilisation represents the Western one. The other culture, the Ethiopian, emphasises the plant world; its society involves a fluid age-grade system. Its system of thought according to Frobenius, is mystical; its social unit is patriarchal. It is funny that Frobenius surprises us that in addition to Africans, Germans and Russians are included in this civilisation.

African religions were always regarded as emotional by European colonial scholars; they are not serious religions we are told. For them, only Christianity and Judaism are monotheistic religions. The truth is that the concept of God, as conceived by Africans, is that of a singular entity: an entity whose nature and existence absolutely excludes any notion of partnership. Religion is expressed order, harmony between people and things, and between God and man. In fact, for most African tribes, the name they give to God also has a singular connotation. Thus the name is not liable to contingent participation as is in Nyankumpun of the Fanti of Ghana, Olon of the Yoruba of Nigeria, Ezekiabher of the Amhara of Ethiopia, Kouth of the Nuer of South Sudan, etc.

There is no doubt that several attempts were

made by African nationalists in the turn of this century to work with, and at times correct, some of the misconceived Western ideas about Africa; unfortunately they were either intentionally misunderstood or undermined. Like their European counterparts, these African nationalists were concerned with creation of socio-economic and safe political future for their nations. Writer-politicians such as L.S. Senghor, Jomo Kenyatta, Kwame Nkrumah (The Way Out), Julius Nyerere (Freedom and Socialism), Kenneth Kaunda (A Humanist in Africa), A. Luthuli (Let my People Go), Nelson Mandela (The Struggle is Mine), and several others, reflected in their writings on the alternative futures for their people and set concrete objective goals for their nations.

Unlike their people, these nationalists were privileged: they were educated, looked upon by their fellow men as the teacher, the father-figure and sometimes as the wise, planing "philosopher king" if you like. We learn from these great men that the colonial experience was very damaging to their endeavour to elevate the political and socio-economic status of their nations. They tell us for example that the European equated a university degree with attainment of wisdom. For Africans however, one can learn to read, and to write, but in no way does this knowledge make a person wise. It does instead, give him/her what Nyerere calls "Ontological knowledge" of the nature of things. In fact, having a university degree — even three — does not necessarily qualify or give an African the status of a wise man in his community. The European insistence on the importance of education alone, led to confusion in several African nations where colonial administrators considered the literate class the wise people and consequently appointed them legislators and leaders in the community. This was in contrast to African political philosophy which takes the eldest of the community to be, by divine law, the vault of wisdom, and the link between God, the ancestors and the living. Thus, in the present generation, seniority of age does not mean much any more as it used to, because the political and administrative powers have been invested on the educated class. The African nationalists' message was that of philosophy of unity and resistance to all things and beings alien to their societies. In fact, this reaction was an evidence of the difference between African and European ways of thinking; African morality is filled with fixed beliefs and principles held from conviction. As Kaunda once put it: "Unlike Westerners, Africans, being pre-scientific people, do not recognise any conceptual cleavage between the natural and supernatural. They experience a situation."

But of course it would sound naive to say that in order to revive African traditions, we have to reject other's culture. As Nyerere put it "mankind could not develop at all if we all preferred to learn from each other." African culture calls for freedom and discipline, because freedom without discipline is dictatorship in guise.

The writer is a research associate at the Royal Institute for Inter-faith Studies in Amman

When a woman is entrusted with a cow

By David Blair

Like all the best ideas it was a simple one: restore a country's livestock herd lost through civil war by donating cows to poor families. British farmers decided to help Uganda this way. That was ten years today. Now, the scheme is self-sustaining and Uganda no longer relies on imported animals.

FRED KATENDE put it this way: "Receiving a cow has an impact on every part of a family's life. We are seeking to empower people and give them real skills."

Katende was talking about the success of a scheme he manages in Uganda which is celebrating its tenth birthday. It is called Send-a-Cow.

In 1988 a group of British farmers decided to help Uganda recover from civil war. The country's livestock herds had been decimated. So they formed a charity that would donate pregnant cows to poor families.

A decade on, the project has helped thousands of people by distributing 450 cows. And it no longer relies on imported animals.

Send-a-Cow has a simple criterion for selecting families to receive a heifer. Katende explains: "We choose the very poorest and the woman of the family is always entrusted with the animal."

For an African village society, where ownership of livestock is a status symbol and often the sole source of income for a family, this has far-reaching consequences.

Rosemary Lukhola, a social worker with Send-a-Cow, says: "We are empowering women and giving them real confidence. Since receiving a cow, many women have stood for office on local councils or taken up positions in other civic organisations."

Inevitably, this sometimes causes tension. Husbands may resent the responsibility given to their wives.

"One woman broke down in front of me and wept as she described her problem," says Lukhola. "She spends all her time tending and milking the cow and then her husband takes the income. The rest of the family is

deprived of the money."

How does Send-a-Cow cope with this problem? "We have a continuous programme of training, visits by project managers and counselling."

Whenever we give a family a cow we retain joint ownership, so we can intervene if a husband is behaving badly."

As a last resort the cow is removed, but this has only happened twice since 1988. "We also help family life. Once a cow arrives, a family is more secure and many problems are avoided," points out Lukhola.

Before a cow is delivered to a family, they receive extensive training, tailored to their own needs and experience.

"The training can last as long as six months," says Lumbuye Aloysius, a veterinary officer working in Luweero District. "We ensure that the family have all the skills necessary to make best use of the asset we give them."

They learn about far more than livestock management. Herbert Lumu, working for a Send-a-Cow in Namirembe District, explains: "We use the cow as a bait to persuade people to protect the environment. The training covers measures to prevent soil erosion and promote organic farming techniques."

James Mutayitako, also from Namirembe District, stresses: "The training does not end after the cow arrives. We continue to visit people, to improve their skills and offer refresher courses."

Send-a-Cow began by transferring heifers from British farms to Uganda. But in 1995 the threat of BSE — the so-called Mad Cow Disease — led the Ugandan government to impose a ban



The British cows are empowering Ugandan women. Who said mad? (File photo)

on the importation of cows.

Fortunately, by this time Send-a-Cow had already introduced enough heifers to allow the project to sustain itself.

"We altered our strategy in response to the BSE crisis," says Katende, "we now buy heifers from the farmers we gave cows to in the early days of the project and pass them on to other villages. Provided we continue to receive an income, Send-a-Cow is now self sustaining."

Funding comes from Britain's Department for International Development (DFID). The charity Comic Relief and Rotary Club have also given donations.

Send-a-Cow's emphasis is on self sufficiency — managing Uganda's own livestock to improve the numbers, quality and distribution of the herd. A village bull scheme has placed healthy bulls in five remote areas of the country, where breeding would otherwise be difficult.

Send-a-Cow's artificial insemination scheme has revived a service that civil strife had virtually destroyed by the mid-1980s. As Uganda's herd continues to recover, other African countries emerging from conflicts may find this a model project to aid their own reconstruction

— Gemini News

Jordan hopes Israel will lift trade barriers

AMMAN (R) — Jordan said Tuesday it hoped last week's Israeli-Palestinian accord would spur Israel into lifting barriers to trade between Palestinian territories and Amman.

Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Al Khatib said the deal, which His Majesty King Hussein helped broker, could encourage cooperation which would benefit Jordanians as well as Israelis and Palestinians.

He said the agreement could have a broader impact on improving relations between Israel and other Arab states.

"We hope that this agreement will encourage all parties to cooperate and we hope that we will improve our trade relations with the West Bank and Gaza...for the mutual benefit of Jordan and Palestine," Khatib told reporters.

"This is a top priority on our agenda and we will be talking to the Israelis about this because the volume of trade that flows between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority is very, very limited and does not reflect the real potential that exists," the foreign minister said.

The United States said Monday it wanted Arab countries to respond to last week's accord by rejoining multilateral peace talks, helping the Palestinians economi-

cally and restarting the process of normalisation with Israel which most have abandoned.

"When we speak about a permanent state of peace in the region we always have in mind normal relations between countries and peoples in the region. That includes normal economic relations," Khatib said.

"We give utmost priority to developing our economic relations with the Palestinians and we have been trying our best with the Israeli government to remove all barriers that impede the flow of goods and services between Jordan and the Palestinian territories," he added.

Khatib said faithful implementation of Friday's agreement between Israel and the Palestinians could have a wider positive effect in the Middle East, where Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is regarded with deep distrust.

"We have reason to hope that if there is real movement on the Israeli-Palestinian track the positive impact will be felt on the other tracks and on the relations between countries and the people of the region," Khatib said.

Kuwait wants stronger role for private sector

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah Tuesday called for a strengthened private sector in the face of plummeting oil revenues.

"The oil income of the state is not enough to fulfill all our needs following the reduction in oil prices," Sheikh Saad told a packed National Assembly on the first day of its new term.

He said the government would boost economic development, notably in the private sector, and ration welfare spending except to those with the lowest incomes.

"Real citizenship is giving and taking," Sheikh Saad said.

Kuwait, which has just under 10 per cent of proven global oil reserves, offers its citizens a cradle-to-grave welfare system, heavily subsidised housing

and power, and guarantees employment.

The National Assembly is expected to pass a draft law in the next month imposing health charges on expatriates, who currently receive free state medical services.

Oil exports account for 90 per cent of the government's revenue, which has been badly hit by plunging oil prices.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), of which Kuwait is a member, decided in June to reduce its total output by 1.35 million barrels per day (bpd).

But this had little effect on oil prices, already weakened by the Asian economic crisis and a glut in world oil stocks.

In July, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Saad Nasser Al Sabah said weak oil prices would cause a huge budget deficit of about three billion dinars, or \$10 billion.

India urges Israel to invest in infrastructure projects

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Israeli investors were urged Tuesday to help fund the massive infrastructure development needed to underpin India's economic growth.

Commerce Secretary P.P. Prabhu was speaking at a meeting of the India-Israel Joint Trade and Economic Committee.

"New investments to the order of \$350 to \$400 billion will be required to upgrade India's infrastructure covering power, ports, roads and telecommunications to the desired level," Prabhu told the meeting.

Israel is the seventh largest investor in India, pumping more than \$1.3 billion into the country since 1991.

Two-way trade between India and Israel in 1997-1998 was around \$650 million.

World Bank tells Yemen to axe half of state jobs

SANAA (R) — The World Bank has called on Yemen to cut the number of its public sector employees by 50 per cent to rein in state expenditure and fight corruption, a government official has said.

"The bank wants Yemen to cut 200,000 employees from 1999 to 2003," the official told Reuters. Yemen, with a population of 17.5 million, had previously said its public sector employed more than 400,000 people.

The official said the Yemeni authorities would "implement at least a large percentage of the figure required by the World Bank."

He said the move was in line with an economic reform programme launched in 1995 under the aegis of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The World Bank had allocated \$25 million for public works projects to help generate income for some of the people losing their jobs as a result of the move, he said.

"The bank also recommended encouraging private sector investment to absorb other people who will lose their jobs," the official said.

Recent studies by local officials showed unemployment in

Yemen hovered around 35 per cent.

They said about 80,000 students graduate from universities and enter the job market each year, but few of them have any technical or vocational training.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh last week called for a freeze on new public sector appointments and promotions to counter economic difficulties resulting from low oil prices.

Yemen is a small independent oil producer pumping about 380,000 barrels per day. Oil is the main source of revenue for the poor Arab country located at the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula.

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.6611	0.6001	1.3588	118.85	1.5410	1642.50	1.8724	5.5663
DE Mark	0.6020	-	0.3610	0.8160	71.50	0.9276	989.10	1.1278	3.3531
GB Sterling	1.6664	2.7675	-	2.2581	197.95	2.5679	2737.23	3.1200	9.2768
CH Franc	0.7378	1.2249	0.4424	-	87.54	1.1356	1211.73	138.12	4.1068
JP Yen	0.0084	1.3970	0.5045	1.1404	-	1.2963	13.82	157.57	4.6854
CA Dollar	0.6489	1.0485	0.3799	0.8519	1.30	-	1037.76	1.1829	3.5160
IT Lira	0.0008	1.0107	0.3650	0.8025	1385.04	0.9376	-	11.40	3.3891
NL Guilder	0.5341	88.65	0.3201	72.39	63.38	0.8224	877.04	-	2.9728
FR Franc	0.1796	0.2982	0.1077	24.3400	21.31	0.2766	33.62	33.6200	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7090	3.7503	0.3770	3.6395	0.3018	3.6727	1501.75	3.4095
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	5.2896	0.5317	5.1333	0.4257	5.1801	2118.12	4.8089
Saudi Riyal	0.2668	0.1891	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0805	0.98	400.43	0.9091
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8808	9.9485	-	9.65	0.8006	9.74	3983.74	9.0445
Qatar Dinar	0.2748	0.1948	1.0304	1.0304	-	0.0829	1.01	412.63	0.9368
Kuwait Dinar	3.3135	2.3492	12.4264	1.2491	12.06	-	12.17	4975.38	0.9368
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0211	1.0205	0.9910	0.0822	-	408.90	0.9283
Lebanese/1000	0.67	0.4721	2.4973	0.2510	2.4235	0.2010	2.4456	-	2.2704
Egyptian	0.2933	0.2079	1.1000	0.1105	1.0675	0.0885	1.0772	440.46	-

Energy		
Oils	Last	revised
Brent	0.00	0.00
W. Texas	14.35	14.02
Bonny	0.00	0.00
Dubai	12.92	12.74
UL Gas	137.00	137.00

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4431	0.16003	0.36189	31.6987
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.46243	0.16341	0.36943	32.3697
KW Dinar	3.3135	5.0661	1.9847	4.4964	39.3558
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.40723	1.9921	3.59971	315.358
CY Pound	2.0309	3.3718	1.2178	2.7527	241.123

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	292.8	293.3
Silver (oz's)	4.98	5.01
Platinum (oz's)	342	344
AL (3 Months)	1294	1297
CU (3 Months)	1587	1590
Zinc (3 Months)	947	948
Lead (3 Months)	495	499
NI (3 Months)	3920	3940

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)					
Period	-1-	-3-	-6-	-1-	-1-
Cncy	Month	Months	Months	Year	Year
USD	5.2248	5.2220	4.9875	4.7772	-
GBP	7.4341	7.1828	6.9180	6.5625	-
JPY	0.3494	0.3948	0.4347	0.4672	-
DEM	3.5000	3.5794	3.5383	3.5000	-
FRF	3.6000	1.2919	1.3358	1.4372	-
CHF	1.0344	3.5684	3.5313	3.5000	-
ITL	4.5600	4.2540	3.8930	-	-

Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	111.25	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1929	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	226.5	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	123	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	24.89	Spot
Tea (stg/kg)	125	Spot
Banana (\$/bsh)	0	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	395	Spot

JOD Cross Rates		
Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1792	1.1851
DE Mark	0.4258	0.428
CH Franc	0.5204	0.523
FR Franc	0.1271	0.1277
JP Yen	0.5929	0.5959
NL Guilder	0.3776	0.3795
IT Lira	0.4304	0.4326

Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

BritishBank and ALICO sign a memorandum of understanding

THE BRITISHBANK and the American Life Insurance Company "ALICO" jointly signed a memorandum of understanding to market their services to the customers of BritishBank and bearers of "ALICO's" policies.

The memorandum was signed by John Pascoe, Chief Executive Officer of the BritishBank and Wafid Fakhoury, the Regional Manager of ALICO.

BritishBank is the largest and most widely represented international bank in the Middle East with 31 branches throughout the UAE, Oman, Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Palestinian autonomous area and an offshore banking unit in Bahrain.

BritishBank has been a principal member of the HSBC Group since 1959.

Headquartered in London with 130,000 staff in more than 5,500 offices in 81 countries and assets of over GBP286 billion (as at December 31, 1997), HSBC Group is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.

Among the other principal members of the Group are HongKong Bank in Asia, Midland Bank in Europe and Marine Midland Bank in the United States of America.

COLORS INSPIRED BY NATURE

DAJANI'S JEWELLERS

At Amra Forum Hotel Shopping Center

Dead Sea Mövenpick opens in January

AMMAN — Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts (MHR) today treated more than 150 Jordanian travel agents to an advance preview of their latest project in Jordan, Mövenpick Resort & Spa Dead Sea, scheduled to open on the second day of the coming Eid Al Fitr holiday (17 or 18 January 1999). The first five-star hotel on Jordan's Dead Sea shore, this comprehensive new facility promises to attract many more tourists to the country, with its 230 guest rooms/suites, function rooms for up to 300 seated guests and the Middle East's most sophisticated spa.

Agents explored the extensively landscaped 70,000 sq.m. grounds, which include a manmade river running from inside the stunning Arabesque-style lobby and function rooms of the main building to a valley garden, past charming guest-room villas and restaurants built of traditional stone, clustered around a central village square. Recreational facilities range from swimming pools and beaches to tennis courts to indoor games and entertainments. An open-air Roman-style amphitheatre will stage special events.

The new hotel is owned by Zara Investment (Holding) Co. Ltd. and was developed under the leadership of Khalil Talhouni, who personally supervised every detail of the project.

Based on a recently-signed joint venture agreement between Prince Al Waleed (30% stake) and J.P. Morgan (10% stake), MHR is planning to increase its portfolio up to 100 properties within the next five years. By the year 2000, MHR will have opened new hotels in Aqaba, Jerusalem, Cairo, Beirut, Dubai, Asmara and Tanager. The Mövenpick Resort Petra has been operating in Jordan since 1996.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

1 Stroke on the green

5 Camera-ready text, for short

10 Fluffy

14 On a cruise

15 Made a mistake

16 Russian ruler

17 Shopping center

18 Treasure collection

19 Memory method

20 Ricochets

22 Turner and Louise

23 Theater-sign letters

26 Indonesian island

27 Maligns

28 Wheel cover

30 Open spot

32 Neighborhoods

33 Manipulated

34 Fifth of MV

37 Condition of 7D

41 Chicago transp.

42 Marit

43 Christmas song

44 Too forward

46 Prairie wolf

47 Sustains

50 "Hud" co-star

52 Actor Beatty

53 Grievance

54 Sherlock

56 Opposed to: pref.

57 Diminishment

58 Acronym of a fuel carrier

62 Disease marked by inflamed joints

63 Edberg or Borg, e.g.

64 Dracula Lugosi

65 Spot

66 Al or Bobby of auto racing

67 Preserving substance

DOWN

1 Dawber or Tillys

2 1996 Olympics

3 host

4 After-shower powder

6 Capture again

8 Swashbuckling

9 Flynn

7 Markers

8 Gurs it in neutral

9 Poem of praise

10 Professional copyist

11 Ultraviolet filter

12 Deadly

13 Shock or lock

14 Humble

22 Muscle spasm

23 Configuration

24 Part of RFD

25 Follows orders

27 "Shane" star

29 Machine part

31 Actor Sean

33 Park City state

34 Leslie of "Gigi"

35 S100

36 Wasted time

38 Capone's under

39 French school

40 Has permission

44 Virtuousness

45 Samovar

46 Tent occupant

47 Picture in one's mind

48 Forbidden acts

49 Frankster

51 Escape detection

54 Chopped

55 Boohoo

57 Fighting Tigers of the NCAA

59 Soup vegetable

60 Cornering pipe

61 Feline

Peanuts

GUESS WHAT, SPIKE... MOM SAYS YOU CAN GO HOME TODAY.

I HAVE TO CARRY YOU BECAUSE SHE SAID YOU'RE TOO WEAK TO WALK.

THIS IS WHERE YOU LIVE?

LIVE?

Andy Capp

I WONDER WHAT FLO'S GOT TO BE SO HAPPY ABOUT?

SOME PEOPLE ARE HAPPY BECAUSE THEY KNOW THINGS COULD BE WORSE.

SUCH AS?

I SHOULD'VE GUESSED.

ANDY'S WALKED OUT ON HER FOR GOOD AGAIN.

Mutt'n'Jeff

WELL, I'M OFF TO WORK! NOW IN A NIGHT WATCHMAN!

WELL, JEFF, YOUR JOB IS TO GUARD FROM HERE TO THAT RED LIGHT!

OH-HUH! DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING, BOSS!

HEY! MORNING!

HELLO, BOSS! SEND ME SOME MONEY! I'M IN CHICAGO!

WHAT?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE? I TOLD YOU TO WATCH ONLY AS FAR AS THE RED LIGHT!

VEH. I KNOW. I WAS ON THE BACK OF A TRUCK!

BUT I JUST FOUND OUT THAT LIGHT WAS ON THE BACK OF A TRUCK!

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"I thought about you all day at work. Somebody's cologne smelled just like your feet."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ICCOL

LIFUD

YALAWY

NAHZIG

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: SWASH DUNCE SOCKET LETHAL

Answer: What the school nurse did during the flu outbreak — CALLED THE SHOTS

A SKIER AT THE TOP CAN END UP HERE.

BUS

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Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Refinery chief calls on public to start ordering their needs of fuel before winter

ABDUL WAHAB Al Zu'bi, general manager of the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, appealed to the public and the concerned parties Tuesday to start getting their needs of fuel for heating purposes and to check the fuel tanks before filling them to ensure the accuracy of quantity and quality of supplies. He told journalists that the company has completed its preparations to meet the higher demand for fuel during winter months.

Zu'bi urged the owners of fuel stations to have fuel stock of at least 50 per cent of the station's capacity and programme their requirements of fuel to face the higher demand during the season. The general manager said comprehensive maintenance was conducted at the plant just like similar procedures each year and stressed that the refinery is absolutely ready to operate at full capacity.

The refinery produces 11,000 tonnes of various fuel products per day or the equivalent of 85,000 barrels per day and work is currently under way to boost the refinery's capacity to 14,000 tonnes per day. Such a volume is equivalent to 100,000 barrels per day, an amount that is enough to suffice the Kingdom's needs of petroleum products until the year 2003.

Zu'bi pointed out that the stocking capacity was raised to the highest possible level of 1.2 million tonnes for most types of fuel. This volume would suffice the Kingdom for between one and two months, the general manager said. He added that the stocking capacity projects were completed especially at the

refinery site in Zarqa and Aqaba where the capacity in each of them was raised by a quarter million tonnes of crude oil and by-products.

Asked about the preparations to meet the public's need for gas cylinders, Zu'bi said the Kingdom consumes around 500 tonnes of gas a day during summer months. The volume is approximately equal to the refinery's capacity. Zu'bi said adding that consumption during winter months reaches 1,400 tonnes per day.

In order to meet the higher demand for liquefied gas in winter, the refinery has floated a tender and the bids will soon be evaluated to award a contract for the supply of 40,000 tonnes of gas. The refinery chief indicated that Jordan's annual consumption of gas amounts to 2.5 million tonnes or the equivalent of 20 million gas cylinders.

Zu'bi said there are around 2.5 million gas cylinders in the market but, he added, demand on the cylinders rises in the winter months because people have shifted to use gas heaters during cold weather. He indicated that the refinery has manufactured 80,000 cylinders last year and imported 150,000 cylinders, bringing the total sold in the market to 224,000 gas cylinders.

This year, the refinery manufactured 40,000 cylinders and imported 200,000 cylinders, the general manager said noting that around 120,000 cylinders are filled with gas every day during the winter season compared to only 5,000 cylinders during the summer months (Al Awaqi + Al Rai).

To establish a U.S.-Jordan Business Partnership United States grants Jordan \$15 million

By Hind-Lara Mango

AMMAN — Jordan and the U.S. Tuesday signed a \$15 million grant agreement to establish a Jordan-United States Business Partnership in the Kingdom.

The agreement, signed by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Mohammad Saleh Hourani, Minister of Planning Nabil Ammari, and United States Ambassador to Jordan William Burns, provides the grant through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

"This project will undoubtedly contribute to a large extent to the development and upgrading of Jordan's industrial sector and in overcoming numerous obstacles impeding its progress," said Hourani at the ceremony.

The minister explained that "Jordan needs specialized up-to-date technical and financial support services to enable its industrial sector to face increasing international challenges."

Private industry in Jordan plays a major role in the national economy, and officials view the continuous improvement and development of this sector of vital importance in responding to rapid global economic and industrial changes.

Ammari said the aim of

this bilateral initiative is "to enhance the competitiveness, productivity and market outreach of small and medium sized Jordanian enterprises (SMEs)."

Ambassador Burns told the Jordan Times that the partnership "will enable SMEs in Jordan... to improve their business planning, their quality control,

their operating efficiency, their marketing skills, and their prospects of finding international buyers for their products and services."

SMEs make up 97 per cent of businesses in the Kingdom. "The partnership will not only provide training, consulting and operational assistance to SMEs, but to trade associations as

well," said Lewis Reade, the new partnership's chief executive officer, told the Jordan Times.

This four-year partnership will be carried out under a USAID grant to the International Executive Service Corps (IESC). The latter is an association of American corporate executives with 30 years of experience

in international business consulting.

"The power of business to raise living standards through job creation and export promotion is well documented, and I am proud that the United States is playing a role through this partnership to unleash that power in Jordan," Burns said.

Jordan, Israel sign agricultural accord

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Israel Tuesday signed an agricultural cooperation agreement at the Moshav Shorsh Guest House. The agreement draws on an earlier agricultural Jordanian-Israeli agreement signed on Oct. 26, 1995 and the

meetings of the Jordanian-Israeli committee on joint agricultural projects held over the past two years.

Under the new agreement, a model project will be initiated where Israeli Awassi sheep from Israel along with

the appropriate technology and equipment will be sent to Jordan in order to establish a herd in the southern part of the Kingdom.

The project aims to improve genetic composition of the sheep and the yield of sheep's milk

and dairy products.

The project, which will cost \$250,000, is another example of the ongoing cooperation between Israel and Jordan, following the signing on Oct. 26, 1994 of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

Somebody just refuses to see things your way. You tend to think that anyone who doesn't go along with your ideas is grossly in error. Unfortunately, this other person shares the same opinion of your behaviour. You may just have to agree to disagree and let it go at that.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This could be an awkward day for everyone. You feel strongly about your position, and so does everyone else. Yes, it's another grand cross in fixed signs. Every time this happens, we have a stand-off. This is a great day to practice showing patience.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You'd like to visit distant shores, but you're stuck taking care of business. There may be a way to do both, if you can figure it out. You may have to get more education, but the opportunity should become apparent. In fact, someone may offer to teach you what you need to learn. If that happens, accept it.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) Love and money clash today. You want to go one way for one, and another way for the other. If you could be two places at once, that would solve the problem, but that's not likely to happen. Why don't you get someone to help with part of your chores so you can spend more time with a loved one?

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) There are lots of very stubborn people and they won't budge. The good news is that you seem to be profiting by this stalemate. You have something everyone wants, and that's about all they have in common. If you can figure out the answer to this riddle, you could make quite a lot of money.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You're in the mood to learn new skills, and practice is part of the programme. Your assignment is difficult, but so what? Consult the manual, or an expert. Either way, you'll figure out how to get this job done, and that's why others have given it to you. They know you can be relied upon, and you won't let them down.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) There's a hassle today between love and money. You'd like to spend more than you have, and that's not a good idea. Your sweetheart

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

is more interested in your personality, and the conversations you share. Even if you have the money to buy gifts, save it for something you two can do together. How about Tahiti in the spring?

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The irritation will be over by tonight, since you'll have made your decision by then. Although you want to settle down, you're actually being propelled forward. It's like you're finding solid bottom and kicking off from it. Don't curse a co-worker. He or she is the one who gave the grit to do it.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You've got an aptitude for learning technical material right now, so use it. The more you learn, the more freedom you'll achieve. There's something in the way, like bureaucratic regulations. If you don't qualify for a programme, keep applying until you find one you fit. Your objective is to break out of old boundaries. Don't believe anyone who says you can't.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) If you don't have your all debts paid off, it's not for lack of trying. You're making a concerted effort, which is wise. Don't waste money on an outing with friends. You can have a great time without spending much at all. In fact, when you get together, you come up with some good ideas for saving even more.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) You're still facing tough opposition and may be outnumbered. You may also be in conflict with someone who outranks you. It doesn't have to stifle your creativity, however. You're still sharp as a tack and an idea you come up with now could make a lasting impression. Present it respectfully, and stand back.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) A couple of strong personalities are squaring off with each other. You're not in the middle of this fight, so stay out of it. They probably wouldn't listen to you anyway. You'd be wise to keep your head down and your nose to the grindstone. That's a good way to keep out of the line of fire.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 27/10/1998											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADING	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
354,300	170,000	ANAB BANK	16.4	0.99	8	890	178540	203.00	203.00	-	-
1,820	1,400	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	12.8	4.85	10	745	11485	1.54	1.55	-	-
3,200	1,000	BANK OF JORDAN	5	0.00	2	450	468	1.05	1.04	-	-
6,510	2,410	THE HOUSING BK.	17.2	3.49	18	7970	21148	2.61	2.71	-	-
800	530	JOR. GULF BANK	0.00	0.00	13	106700	61953	0.60	0.59	-	-
3,910	1,450	JOR. ZILBANK BANK	16.2	0.00	6	500	796	1.59	1.59	-	-
1,880	1,350	JOR. INTL. FIN. BANK	21.5	3.57	7	6488	9082	1.40	1.40	-	-
850	600	WILADIEL. INV. BK.	5	0.00	15	31000	18460	0.60	0.60	-	-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 267.60	TCBG: +0.43	79	161454	301931				
2,740	1,410	JOR. ELECTRIC POW.	9.2	5.81	2	3300	4686	1.43	1.42	-	-
7,460	1,950	VEHICLE OWNERS YED.	7.8	6.32	1	100	190	2.00	1.90	-	-
1,220	620	NATL. PORTFOLIO	27.9	0.00	18	9150	6405	0.70	0.70	-	-
9,300	5,100	ALBANI	7.66	0.00	1	300	1566	5.04	5.22	-	-
1,400	1,870	ANAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.3	2.13	3	4250	7990	1.88	1.88	-	-
1,790	1,060	UNIFIED CO.	4.8	10.09	2	500	545	1.10	1.09	-	-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 103.96	TCBG: -0.28	27	17600	21382				
4,110	1,050	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	12.5	0.00	29	38800	44860	1.16	1.18	-	-
11,220	10,050	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.9	0.71	15	1609	16371	10.12	10.20	-	-
5,950	4,450	JORDAN TANNING	8.3	7.77	2	250	1288	4.90	5.15	-	-
1,410	1,060	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGR.	64.2	0.00	1	500	560	1.15	1.12	-	-
2,400	1,350	ANAB PHARM. MARK.	7.1	2.91	24	31240	8016	2.58	2.58	-	-
2,940	2,650	JORDAN DAILY	6.1	10.14	1	500	1370	2.65	2.74	-	-
6,350	4,700	DAR ALADAM. DV. INV.	6.2	6.86	2	450	2280	5.10	5.10	-	-
2,980	1,700	ANAB ALCH. IND.	12.8	14.45	3	350	607	1.73	1.73	-	-
1,350	1,350	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	0	0.00	8	3400	1258	0.37	0.37	-	-
730	370	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	13	12950	6229	0.47	0.48	-	-
540	280	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	3	1200	360	0.30	0.30	-	-
620	290	JOR. ROBERTSON	0	0.00	1	250	81	0.33	0.33	-	-
1,760	760	UNIV. CHEM. IND.	10.8	7.55	3	250	263	1.04	1.06	-	-
2,090	630	NATL. CARBON. WIDE. PAC	30.9	0.00	30	10700	7082	0.66	0.66	-	-
1,460	1,460	JOR. PETRO. CHEM.	7.0	0.00	3	1150	426	0.37	0.37	-	-
1,070	1,150	ANAB PHARM. CHEM.	13.1	5.04	3	600	711	1.17	1.19	-	-
1,240	530	UNIV. MOOD. IND.	9.7	9.84	15	15350	9296	0.60	0.61	-	-
880	460	JOR. TVOS. RESOURCES	9	0.00	12	5300	2348	0.46	0.46	-	-
1,460	1,160	NATL. CHEMIST	8.2	8.55	1	750	878	1.17	1.17	-	-
1,080	600	JOR. NEW CARBON CO.	8.6	16.39	4	2150	1312	0.61	0.61	-	-
1,960	1,150	EL. RAY READY MEAT	41.2	0.00	1	200	234	1.18	1.17	-	-
1,310	910	INTL. TOBACCO	7.6	5.40	18	6850	7350	1.04	1.08	-	-
1,220	880	UNION CH. & VEG.	10.7	0.00	2	350	327	0.92	0.97	-	-
730	580	NAT. ALUMINUM	33.2	0.00	13	3351	2224	0.66	0.67	-	-
670	520	KID. EAST COMPLEX	9.6	0.00	5	11400	6042	0.53	0.53	-	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 71.93	TCBG: -0.31	212	121788	121701				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 161.19	TCBG: +0.36	318	300842	445014				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 27/10/1998											
1,050	790	EXPORT & FIN. INV. 75%	10.2	0.00	3	3600	1980	0.80	0.80	-	-
950	730	ANAB INSURANCE	0.00	0.00	1	200	182	0.92	0.92	-	-
1,230	1,000	ISLAMIC INSURANCE CO	99.2	0.00	1	250	263	1.00	1.05	-	-
790	500	UNION INV.	9	0.00	3	8830	4679	0.53	0.53	-	-
620	210	ANAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	18	12400	26500	0.58	0.58	-	-
1,460	1,160	AL-SUMAYYAH	23.9	0.00	3	3500	2030	0.58	0.58	-	-
1,050	1,050	FALCON INV. & FIN. CO.	2	0.00	4	550	605	1.05	1.10	-	-
220	090	JOR. INVOS. MATCH-JENCO	0	0.00	1	5000	700	0.14	0.14	-	-
660	270	ANAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	2	3000	870	0.30	0.30	-	-
430	200	ANAB INTL. INV. TRD.	23.0	0.00	1	1000	200	0.20	0.20	-	-
580	220	NATL. MULT. INC. JAMICO	0	0.00	12	49300	11339	0.24	0.23	-	-
1,230	660	READY MIX CONCRETE	7.4	0.00	2	500	348	0.69	0.69	-	-
1,460	1,160	HIDEART PHARM. 90%	0	0.00	2	265	102	0.48	0.49	-	-
720	570	RAZI PHARM.	2	0.00	2	4200	2394	0.58	0.57	-	-
330	190	INDS. INC.	9	0.00	9	22850	4871	0.21	0.21	-	-
1,950	530	ADVANCED PHARM. IND.	0	0.00	8	103	345	0.69	0.69	-	-
630	430	NATL. POLTRY	9	0.00	8	41389	22781	0.54	0.54	-	-
1,310	610	MUTIRIDAR	10.7	0.00	27	32900	21283	0.65	0.65	-	-
1,000	690	AL-SUMAYYAH PRINTING CO	10.8	10.67	2	700	487	0.71	0.71	-	-
GRAND TOTAL			104	302937	100846						
1 New 12 months high 2 New 12 months low 3 Stock dividend during the past 12 months 4 Listed during the past 12 months 5 P/E ratio is 100 or more 6 Negative P/E 7 Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year											

JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE

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Asian Games organisers seek Thai lottery help

BANGKOK (R) — The cash-strapped organisers of this year's Asian Games said on Tuesday they would ask for 500 million baht (\$13.16 million) from Thailand's lottery to overcome liquidity problems caused by poor ticket sales.

The Bangkok Asian Games Organising Committee (BAGOC) said they had only 300 million baht (\$7.9 million) left in their bank account and expected to need 478 million baht (\$12.58 million) to complete arrangements for the December 6-20 Games.

As of October 15, only 25 percent of the tickets for the opening and closing ceremony had been sold, bringing in 34 million baht (\$895,000), they said in a statement.

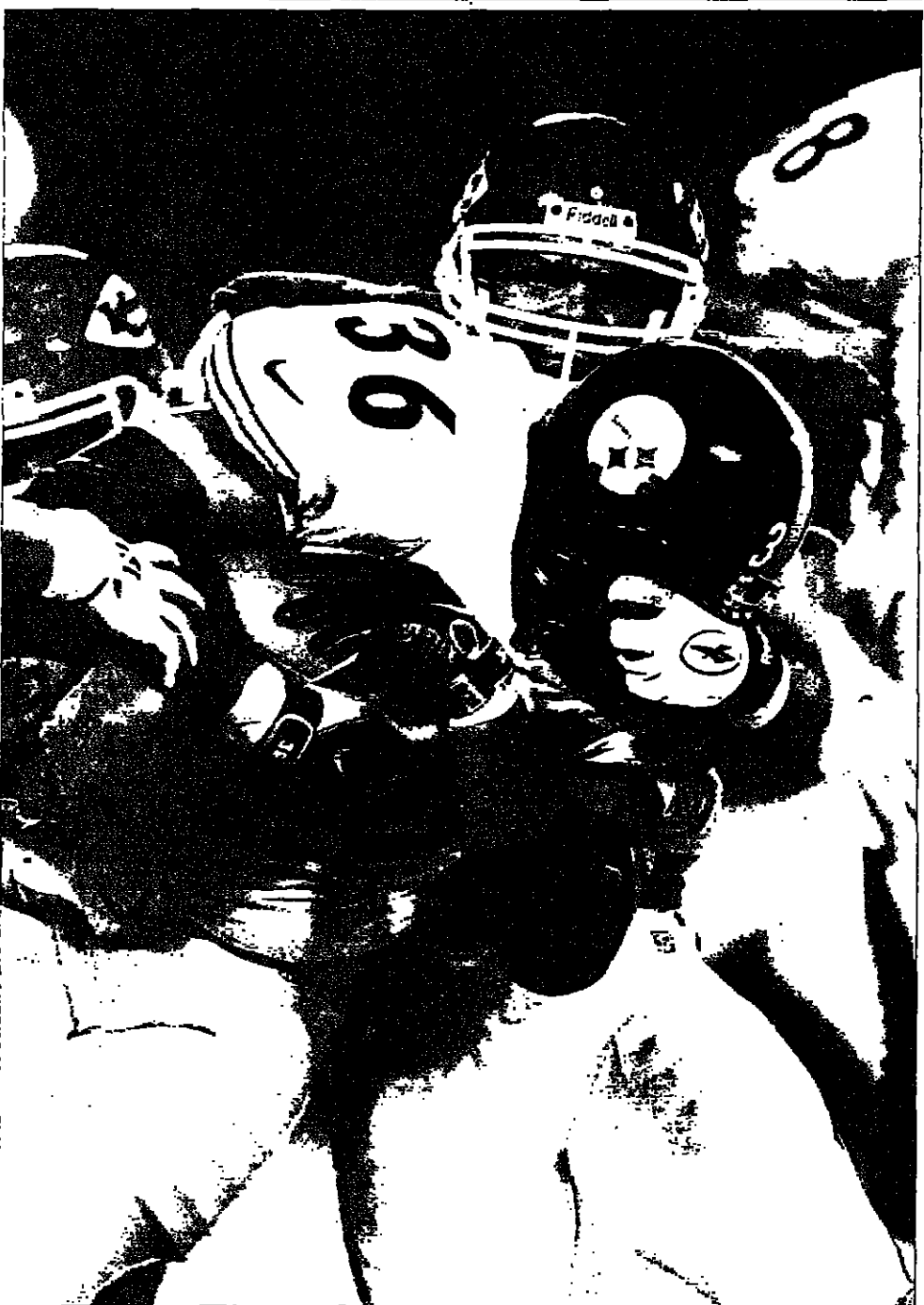
The committee expects to earn 320 million baht (\$8.42 million) from total ticket sales for the Games. Tickets for the opening and closing ceremony are priced at up to 5,000 baht (\$130).

To offset the income shortfall, BAGOC will propose to borrow 500 million baht from the lottery bureau to solve the problem of liq-

uidity," the statement said.

BAGOC said they would make the request at a cabinet meeting next Tuesday to borrow from two billion baht (\$53 million) the state-run lottery bureau has set aside for sporting development.

Billed as "The Last Great Sporting Festival of the 20th Century" the 13th Asian Games come at a time when many countries in the region are mired in their worst recessions for decades.



Pittsburgh Steelers' Jerome Bettis (36) carries for a short gain as Kansas City Chiefs' Greg Manusky wraps him up for the tackle in Kansas City. The Steelers have won seven of the two teams last 10 contests (Reuters photo)

Steelers snap Chiefs' home win streak

KANSAS CITY (AFP) — Jerome Bettis rushed for 119 yards in his return from a twisted left knee and Pittsburgh snapped Kansas City's 11-game home win streak Monday with a 20-13 victory.

The American football matchup of National Football League second-place clubs left the Steelers (5-2) even with Jacksonville atop the AFC Central division and the Chiefs (4-3) third in the AFC West

behind 7-0 Denver.

Kordell Stewart completed just 11-of-22 passes for 82 yards but fired the go-ahead five-yard touchdown pass to Charles Johnson with 10 minutes to play.

Bettis carried 33 times to record his fourth consecutive 100-yard game against the Chiefs while Fred McAfee also recovered a blocked punt for a Pittsburgh touchdown.

Elvis Grbac was 15-of-36 for 224 yards but threw an

interception and fumbled on

Kansas City's last two possessions as the Chiefs fell here for the first time since December 15, 1996.

The Chiefs, off last week, failed to rebound from an embarrassing 40-10 loss at New England two weeks ago and hurt themselves often, including being penalised 10 times for 71 yards.

Budget woes eased for Salt Lake organisers

SALT LAKE CITY (AFP) — Organisers of the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics will have a much easier time pulling together money to meet their budget than their counterparts from Atlanta's 1996 Games.

Organisers of the Centennial Summer Olympics struggled to raise \$1.8 billion and broke even by selling out space and sponsor deals in an over-commercialised mess.

This time, United States Olympic Committee officials have taken on much of the responsibility for the \$1.453 billion budget for Salt Lake. Organisers will have to raise only about 10 percent of that total.

Broadcast fees from the International Olympic Committee will contribute \$445 million and USOC fund-raising will bring in another \$859 million.

That leaves organisers with \$149 million to raise, \$17 million less than is budgeted for ticket sales income. The rest should leave a tidy emergency fund or profit.

Even with help from national and global sanctioning bodies, U.S. cities have become cautious about Olympic dealings in the wake of Atlanta.

Nine U.S. groups are bidding for the 2012 Olympics but only four cities have the civic support resolutions needed by year's end to satisfy USOC requirements.

While Houston, Dallas, Tampa and Cincinnati have governmental backing, such larger rivals as Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington-Baltimore have not and Seattle officials overwhelmingly rejected such a plan.



FIFA President Sepp Blatter (L) and British Prime Minister Tony Blair chat on the steps of 10 Downing Street in London following a meeting regarding England's 2006 World Cup bid (AFP Photo)

Euro 2000 chiefs to offer more tickets to 'genuine' fans

ROTTERDAM (R) — Organisers of the 2000 European championship finals have promised to provide more tickets for "genuine" fans compared with previous major tournaments.

Tickets will not be sold as part of travel or accommodation packages.

"We want a fair, open and transparent system... There will be more tickets for supporters of the two opponents. In France (for the World Cup) they each received eight percent. We will double that," Euro 2000 secretary Harry Been told a news conference.

A further 37 per cent of the 1.2 million tickets will be offered directly to the public from March or April next year.

Euro 2000 organisers are keen to stress they do not want to criticise but instead draw conclusions from the

experience of this year's World Cup in France.

A ticketing policy which favoured French nationals and led to a vigorous black market in ticket sales came under fierce criticism from the media and the European Commission.

Part of the French problem came from the desire to guarantee full stadiums, said Euro 2000 director Alain Cortais.

Euro 2000 organisers want capacity crowds but say they have opted for a ticketing policy offering "reasonable" prices.

"You will pay for what you get — the ticket," said Been, adding organisers would insist national federations adhere to the conditions.

In accordance with European Union rules, Euro 2000 has pledged to give all EU citizens an equal chance to buy tickets and will not

give preferential treatment to the Dutch or Belgians, the tournament's co-hosts.

Supporters will be allowed up to two tickets per match and, for security purposes, they will bear the buyers' names.

Euro 2000 hopes to receive formal UEFA approval of its ticketing plans in November.

Sales of the initial 37 per cent will start in spring 1999 with forms available from a retail channel, over the telephone or via the Internet.

National associations are expected to begin sales from December next year.

WEEKLY TENNIS GLANCE

By The Associated Press

• STARS:

— Andre Agassi captured the IPB Czech Indoor in Ostrava, Czech Republic, by beating Jan Krosiak 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.
— Alex Corretja downed Tommy Haas 2-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-1 to win the Lyon Grand Prix in Lyon, France.
— Mary Pierce won the Kremlin Cup by stopping Monica Seles 7-6 (7-2), 6-3 in Moscow.
— John McEnroe defeated Johan Kriek 7-5, 6-3 to take the Harvey Norman Champions in Melbourne, Australia.

• SPEAKING

"In this tournament I played some ugly matches, and I was just lucky to win them." — Mary Pierce, after winning the Kremlin Cup.

"There is more interest in the personalities and rivalries in a sense with the women and you've got to give them credit for that." — John McEnroe, saying women's tennis gaining in popularity over the men's game.

"It's a stupid rule. ... Jennifer (Capriati) can't come out and play four games of hit-and-giggle because there's a tournament in Moscow?" — Chris Evert, upset with a Corel WTA Tour rule that prevents active pros from playing in charity events the same time a tournament is being held.

"For me deep down, I think it is I just love to play tennis. I love the game. I really enjoy the everyday practicing for it and the competition. As long as I have that passion for it I will keep playing." — Monica Seles, asked what motivates her tennis now.

"In the last six games of the final set I played some of my best tennis this year. I think I was pretty lucky, too." — Andre Agassi, after rallying from an 0-4 deficit in the final set to beat Thomas Johansson 6-7 (6-8), 6-4, 6-4 in the quarterfinals of the Czech Indoor.

• SEASON-ENDERS

Mary Pierce along with first-time qualifier Dominique Van Roost of Belgium and Sandrine Testud of France are the latest to qualify for the \$2 million season-ending Chase Championships of the Corel WTA Tour at New York's Madison Square Garden the week of Nov. 16. Already in the field are U.S. Open champion Lindsay Davenport, Australian Open winner Martina Hingis, French Open champ Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, Wimbledon winner Jana Novotna, Venus Williams, Monica Seles, Conchita Martinez, Anna Kournikova and Patty Schnyder. These 12 will be joined by four more women in a lineup that features four different Grand Slam winners for the first time since 1990.

• STRANGE DRAW

Tommy Haas had a lot of luck and very little match play on his second consecutive trip to the final of the Lyon Grand Prix. Haas won his quarterfinal when top-seeded Pete Sampras withdrew with an aching back. The young German then captured his semifinal when No. 2-ranked Marcelo Rios withdrew in the second set with a strained hamstring. "I have been very lucky this week," the 20-year-old Haas said. "But don't forget that I had to win matches to reach the quarterfinal." Haas lost to Alex Corretja in the title match.

• SURGING

With his fifth title of the year, Andre Agassi has regained a spot in the top five in the world rankings for the first time in more than two years. His victory in the Czech Indoor final also qualified Agassi for the year-ending ATP Tour World Championships in Hanover, Germany. Agassi, who has reached 10 finals this year, has not been ranked so high since 1996 — which also was the year he was No. 1 for two weeks. Last year, he was ranked 141st in the world.

• STYLISH SPANIARD

When Alex Corretja won the Lyon Grand Prix in Lyon, France, he became the first Spaniard to win a men's indoor tournament in 22 years. Manuel Orantes was the last Spaniard to achieve an indoor triumph, and that came at the 1976 Masters in Houston when he outlasted Wojtek Fibak in five sets. Corretja saved a match point in the second set of the 2-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-1 victory over Tommy Haas. The

victory also qualified the Spaniard for the season-ending ATP Tour World Championships, which will be held in Hanover, Germany, next month.

• SUNRISE CANCELLED

An event billed as the richest women's doubles exhibition in history, the \$300,000 Women's World Doubles Championship, has been canceled. The event, scheduled for Nov. 27 in Sunrise, Florida, would have featured Martina Navratilova, Steffi Graf, Anna Kournikova and Jana Novotna. According to the Fort Lauderdale, Fla. based promotions company run by longtime tennis promoter George Liddy, the exhibition was canceled because "the proposed sponsor of the event had to withdraw its support due to changes in business and market conditions."

• SITTING DOWN

Sebastien DeChaunac, the No. 1 men's tennis player at the University of Mississippi, will sit out his team's first two matches next spring. The NCAA reprimanded DeChaunac for an outburst last May at the NCAA Division I Men's Tennis Championships in Athens, Georgia, when at the end of a singles match he lost to John Roddick of Georgia. DeChaunac lost his temper and broke his racket. The NCAA said it was reprimanding DeChaunac for unsportsmanlike conduct and accepted the two-match penalty imposed by Ole Miss.

• SYNTHETIC FOR SYDNEY

The main tennis court in the Sydney Olympics will be modeled on Wimbledon's new No. 1 court. The arena has been designed by Richard Rees, the man responsible for No. 1 Court at the All England Club, but the surface in Sydney will be synthetic rather than grass.

• SUCCESSFUL TOURNEY

The popularity of women's tennis worldwide was never more evident than in Moscow at the Ladies Kremlin Cup. The singles final, where Mary Pierce defeated Monica Seles, drew a tournament single-day record crowd of 14,911.

• SITES TO SURF

Mexico City: www.abiertomextenis.com.mx
Stuttgart: www.eurocard-open.de/
Quebec: www.tenniscanada.com
Luxembourg: www.seatopen.lu

• Tournaments this week

ATP Tour
\$2,200,000 Eurocard Open, carpet, Stuttgart, Germany
\$315,000 Abierto Mexicano de Tenis, clay, Mexico City
Corel WTA Tour
\$164,250 Bell Challenge, hard, Quebec, Canada
\$164,250 Seat Open, carpet, Luxembourg
Senior tour
Oct. 30-Nov. 1
\$150,000 NTT Data Champions, Tokyo, Japan

• Tournaments week of Nov. 2

ATP Tour
\$2,300,000 Open de Paris, carpet, Paris, France
\$315,000 Cerveza Club Colombia Open, clay, Bogota, Colombia
Corel WTA Tour
\$450,000 Sparkassen Cup, carpet, Leipzig, Germany
\$164,250 World Doubles Cup, Mexico

Prince Hamed to fight Saturday

ATLANTIC CITY (AFP) — Prince Naseem Hamed's featherweight bout here Saturday against Ulsterman Wayne McCullough is on, but only thanks to the help of American promoter Cedric Kushner.

A British court has agreed to allow the New York-based promoter handle the fight after seizing the assets of Frank Warren, a moved that raised concern about whether the fighters could be paid. Warren is fight-

ing tax charges in Britain and among many involved in lawsuits with promoter Don King.

Unbeaten Hamed fly to the United States on Monday and began making promotional appearances for the fight against his Irish rival. Hamed is 30-0 with 28 knockouts. Irish rival McCullough is 21-1 with 14 knockouts.

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	PHILADELPHIA '1'			PHILADELPHIA '2'			PLAZA			CONCORD			GALLERIA 1			GALLERIA 2				
TODAY AT	Daniel Day-Lewis & Emily Watson... in			Liam Neeson & Jessica Lange... in			Comedian Mohammad Huneidi... in			CONCORD "1"	Michael Douglas & Sean Penn... in		ABDOUN	www.cns.com.jo/Galleria		ABDOUN	www.cns.com.jo/Galleria		Watch out for the new play	
	THE BOXER			ROB ROY			SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY			THE GAME	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30		Comedian Mohammad Huneidi... in			Comedian Mohammad Huneidi... in				
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Listings for films and times as recieved by cinemas and their advertising agencies.

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has been cancelled. The event
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in the United Arab Emirates
last month. The event was
cancelled because of the
threat of a terrorist attack
on the tournament.

DOWN

Champion the No. 1 men's
of Mississippi will be
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Champion the No. 1 men's
of Mississippi will be
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Boris Becker

Part-time Becker battles through

STUTTGART (AFP) — Boris Becker shrugged off recent inactivity here Tuesday to defeat Holland's Sjeng Schalken 6-2, 7-5 and move into the second round of the \$2.45-million Eurocard Open.

The 30-year-old German, now semi-retired and more concerned with Davis Cup coaching and business interests, clinched only his second match since July with his seventh match point.

His previous appearance saw him go out in the first round indoor at Basel a month ago.

Becker joined compatriot Tommy Haas, one of his German heirs apparent, as a winner on day two.

World No. 37 Haas, a first-round loser in his debut here a year ago, defeated South African David Nainkin 6-4, 6-4.

Swede Magnus Gustafsson, meanwhile, mowed down Oliver Gross of Germany 6-0, 6-3 and fellow Scandinavian Thomas Johansson beat Martin Damm of the Czech Republic 5-7, 6-3, 6-2.

Despite his recent stint away from tennis, Becker showed that he still knows how to fight for victory.

After winning the opening set easily, Becker ran into more resistance from Schalken, ranked 66th on the ATP Tour.

The 22-year-old



Michael Chang

Dutchman even began the second set with a break, which Becker earned back for 3-3.

The German veteran, one notch lower in the rankings, saved three break points in the next game, firing over three aces to get out of trouble for a 4-5 lead.

Five games later, Becker looked like wrapping up a straightforward victory with three match points.

But Schalken produced a service winner, an ace and then Becker netted a forehand. The German let three more match-winning opportunities get away before the crowd favourite finally secured the win when the Dutchman put a return

over the baseline.

Ninth-seed Tim Henman of Britain later faced a second-round night match against Australian Mark Woodforde.

The Eurocard features 19 of the world's top 20 players, all with first-round byes.

Pete Sampras is aiming to hold onto his No. 1 ranking for a sixth straight year despite the challenges of Marcelo Rios of Chile and double U.S. Open winner Pat Rafter of Australia.

All of the big three have Wednesday starts.

Britain's Greg Rusedski, seeded 13th, plays a second-round match on Wednesday against either German David Prinosil or Australian Jaxon Stollenberg.

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Olympic sponsors discover true cost of TV adverts

SYDNEY (AFP) — Sydney Olympic sponsors have been told they may have to pay millions of extra dollars for television adverts if they do not want rivals to jump on the Olympic publicity bandwagon.

Firms which have already paid up to A\$50 million (\$30 million) to be official Olympic sponsors were dismayed to learn non-sponsors have been approached by Seven Network television, the Australian Financial Review reported Tuesday.

Airline company Ansett was upset about the move.

"It's a situation we have got little control over," a spokeswoman said.

If companies do not want to pay the asking price for an advertising package then the remaining time is offered to non-sponsors eager to cash in on Olympic Games coverage.

Television advertising is one of the few opportunities for an official sponsor to reach its audience because all Olympic sites are clean venues with no billboard advertising.

Seven Network's general sales manager for sport, Rob Temple, said the offer to non-sponsors was within International Olympic Committee guidelines.

Seven is offering eight packages worth A\$13.95 million (\$8.4 million) each for Olympic-related advertising for the next two years.

Another 10 packages worth A\$7.6 million (\$4.5 million) are being offered for advertising during the 17-day Games period.

Richard Harper, head of marketing in retailing banking for Olympic sponsor Westpac, said Seven was within its rights to approach other banks.

"In every Olympics you always get the situation where you can have multiple banks or multiple airlines," he said. "I wish it were otherwise, but it's a kind of commercial reality that television stations deal across the market."

However he signalled Westpac's willingness to sign up.

"It would seem ridiculous to purchase rights for the sponsorship then leave the field right at the end," he said.

Meanwhile, real estate agencies were jostling to sign up owners to let their houses to tourists or for corporate hospitality during the Games.

"At the end of the day, as in Atlanta, the overwhelming number of people who stayed privately didn't stay in property provided in the official programme," said estate agent Caryl Oliver.

She said owners could expect anything from A\$80 dollars (\$48) a night per bedroom to A\$500 (\$300) per night.

She said finding suitable properties was not easy but expected more owners to come forward as the Olympic deadline approached.

Asian League Champions Handball Tournament Kathema crowned champions Rayyan withdraw leaving Ahli second

By Ronfan Nahhas

AMMAN — Kuwait's Kathema were crowned champions of the 1st Asian League Champions Handball Tournament after beating Iran's Zobohan 29-25 (14-12).

The Kuwaiti team virtually became the sole contender for the title after the Technical Committee of the Asian Handball Federation reviewed their objection stating that Al Rayyan had violated rules by enlisting two foreign players at the same time in Monday's game.

The committee penalised Al Rayyan by imposing a \$300 fine and considering them losers of the match by a 10-0 score after they had tied 28-28.

Meanwhile, Jordan's Al Ahli took the runner up spot after Qatar's Rayyan withdrew from the last match against Al Salt and accordingly Al Ahli moved up from third to second place.

Al Rayyan were disqualified from the tournament and their results were cancelled.

Iran's Zobohan took third place and Jordan's Al Salt came in fourth.

Armed with confidence, Kathema started the match by putting all pressure on Zobohan's defence depending on their star Ali Murad.

Zobohan gave their best to tie and they succeeded several times before Murad's left-handed shots ended the first half 14-12 for Kathema.

The situation took another turn in the second half as Zobohan regained their confidence and stood tall against their rivals for some time.

Zobohan were successful in guarding Murad, Kathema's most dangerous player, who tried to move freely but without success.

But towards the end of the second half Kathema performed their best and bombarded Zobohan's goal thanks to Murad, Abdullah Abdullah and Talal Awadi.

Finally Kathema put an end to Zobohan's hopes and won the match and the title with a 29-25 win.

In an interview with the Jordan

Times, championship director and Jordan Handball Federation spokesman Sinan Al Hussein said that all went well for Jordanian teams in the tournament.

"As a federation we tried our best to give our two teams the chance to play and learn from the best teams in Asia."

We wanted the players and the coaches to get more experience before the Pan-Arab Games scheduled to take place here next summer," he added.

"We watched and studied our mistakes in this tournament and we will act accordingly," he pointed out.

The federation now has another event to follow this championship.

"We have the 20th Arab Handball Champion Clubs Tournament Nov. 4-14. So far, eight teams will be participating," he said.

Al Ahli and Al Salt will also take part in the event.

"As you can see we are doing our best by providing chances to gain the experience our teams lack so we can move forward with the game," he added.

Agassi back in world top five

STUTTGART (R) — Andre Agassi regained the top five in the world rankings for the first time in more than two years on Monday.

His victory over Slovak Jan Krosnak in the Czech Indoor final on Sunday lifted the former World No. 1 to number five in the latest ATP Tour list.

It was the American's fifth title this season and his 10th final.

Agassi has not enjoyed such a high placing since 1996 — a year in which he was number one for two weeks.

The American, who had re-dedicated himself to the game after an awful 1997 season, was a miserable 140th at the same time last year.

"It was a perfect week," said Agassi of his performance in Ostrava. "I had great support from the crowd and I played really well."

Agassi, currently in Stuttgart for the \$2.45 million Eurocard Open, was due to play Romanian Andrei Pavel in his

first match on Wednesday.

With 65 victories, he is the most successful player on the circuit this year in terms of wins. He has a 65-15 record compared with the meagre 12-12 he managed last year.

But he did not quite make it when it mattered most and suffered a frustrating grand slam season, failing to go beyond the fourth round in any of the big four.

While Agassi has a mathematical chance of ending the year as No. 1, the race for top spot is effectively between Pete Sampras, Marcelo Rios and Patrick Rafter. All three are in Stuttgart but do not play before Wednesday.

Sampras, eager to finish first for a record sixth consecutive time, currently heads the rankings, 693 points ahead of Rios, with Rafter third a further 162 back.

"Imagine being the goalie for a penalty shot in soccer, but they place the ball six feet away," Sampras said of the

close fight. "You want to duck, dive, hide — whatever you can."

There are 370 points up for grabs in Stuttgart and Sampras, who lost in the third round here last year, has little to fear this week.

Sampras, Rios and Rafter were all hampered by injury worries last week in Lyon, France. While Sampras and Rafter both said they were fit, organisers were still awaiting confirmation from Rios.

The battle will continue in next week's Paris Open but could go to the year-ending ATP Tour world championship, starting in Hanover, Germany on November 23.

By winning in Ostrava, Agassi became the sixth player to book a place in Hanover. The world's top eight qualify.

Sampras, Rios and Rafter will naturally be there, plus Spaniards Carlos Moya and Alex Corretja.



New York Mets catcher Mike Piazza answers questions at press conference in New York after the Mets signed him to a seven-year, \$91 million contract. It is the biggest player contract in the history of Major League baseball (AFP Photo)

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SUPER SAFE

Both vulnerable. North deals.			
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The bidding:			
NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
2NT	Pass	4♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♠	Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

The lure of 100 honors can be devastating. At no trump, North-South have 12 winning tricks. At clubs, there was a nasty surprise in store for declarer. South not only bid the hand poorly, but played it worse.

After North opened two no trump, South's four clubs was the

Palestinian security forces arrest two for settler killing

GAZA (R) — Palestinian security forces, in a sign of renewed cooperation with Israel, said on Tuesday they had arrested two Palestinian gunmen who confessed to killing a Jewish settler in the West Bank on Monday.

A spokesman for Palestinian General Intelligence, speaking four days after Israelis and Palestinians signed a land-for-security deal, said the two men also admitted killing another Israeli in a occupied Jerusalem forest spring on Oct. 13.

"They denied any affiliation to any group and said they carried out the attacks on their own," Ahmad Tibi, an adviser to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, told Israel Radio.

The Israeli army on Tuesday announced a ban on Israelis, except for journalists, entering self-ruled

Palestinian areas of the West Bank. It gave no reason for the move.

Speaking in Gaza, the spokesman for Palestinian intelligence said his agency arrested the two men in the West Bank. Israel's army Radio said they were from a village near Bethlehem.

Danny Vargas, a 29-year-old security guard at an Israeli power plant in Kiryat Arba settlement in the West Bank, was shot at close range in his car and dumped on a quiet road in adjacent Hebron on Monday.

Also on Monday, a 68-year-old Palestinian, Mohammad Suleiman Zalmut, was beaten to death. His body was found in the West Bank settlement of Itamar.

Yitzhak Aharonovitch, commander of Israeli police in the West Bank, said police hoped soon to arrest

a man they suspected of killing Zalmut. He said there was no evidence the killings of the Israeli and Palestinian were related.

Under the deal signed by Arafat and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the United States last week, Israel agreed to hand over 13 per cent more of the West Bank in return for concrete Palestinian security steps against anti-Israeli activists.

The army sealed off the Palestinian-ruled part of Hebron, preventing Palestinian residents from entering and leaving, and imposed a curfew on the Israeli-controlled side, confining Palestinian residents to their homes.

Hebron, holy to both Muslims and Jews, was divided under an interim deal carried out in January 1997.



Palestinian schoolgirls scurry past an armed Israeli infantry soldier as they return home from school Tuesday on the outskirts of Hebron. Israel imposed a curfew on Palestinians in the Israeli-controlled sector of the city after a Jewish settler, Danny Vargas, was shot dead outside the settlement of Kiryat Arba on Monday (Reuters photo)

Outgoing Slovak premier turns rap star

BRATISLAVA (AFP) — Outgoing Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar may be departing the political stage, but could yet launch a new career — as a hit rap artist. The authoritarian leader stunned TV viewers last month by confirming his resignation after an electoral drubbing by singing a Slovak folk song, with tears in his eyes. An enterprising music producer has now turned the performance, in which Meciar warbles "I leave you but I haven't hurt you," into a rap single which has become an instant hit in the ex-communist country's nightspots.

Titanic sinks, again

LONDON (AFP) — The Titanic has sunk again. Or at least, a scale model of the ocean liner moored on a village lake. The model version, five metres long with working funnels and a total 1,300 lights, was a star attraction as it serenely sailed the lake in Matlock, central England. It came complete with a polystyrene iceberg for dramatic effect, and won first prize at the town's annual illuminations, which draw tens of thousands of people every summer. However the high winds and heavy rain that lashed Britain at the weekend proved too much for the Titanic, and it disappeared into the muddy bottom of the lake.

Americans want insurers to pay for Viagra

WASHINGTON (R) — Americans think impotence is a serious health problem and want insurers, public and private, to help pay for treatment, a poll published on Monday shows. Even Medicaid, the combined state and federal health insurance plan for the poor, should help pay for treatments including Viagra. Pfizer's best-selling impotence drug, the poll showed. "There is wide support among the public for paying at least some of the costs of Viagra," Humphrey Taylor, chairman of Louis Harris and Associates Inc., which conducted the study, told a conference sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the American Foundation for Urologic Disease.

Cancer drug helps paralysed mice walk

WASHINGTON (R) — A drug originally developed to fight cancer has helped paralysed mice to walk again, researchers reported on Monday. The drug, known under its experimental name CM101, is one of a class of drugs known as angiogenesis inhibitors, which have received a great deal of attention lately because of their strong effects on tumours. They literally starve out tumours by preventing them from creating a new blood supply. A team led by Carl Hellerqvist at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, said the same process seemed to block the damage that makes a temporary trauma to the spinal cord turn into permanent paralysis.

Policewoman wins damages over earpiece

LONDON (AFP) — A former London detective was awarded \$285,000 for damage inflicted by wearing an earpiece as she listened in on suspected criminals. Laura Dyer, 48, won the damages from a Metropolitan Police after a court was told her hearing had been damaged because of being wired up with a radio receiver and earpiece. The receiver, which was sometimes on for eight hours a day, had no volume control or off switch. She told the court that the earpiece had left her suffering from tinnitus, a ringing or booming sound in the ears. The police force now fears similar complaints following Monday's ruling.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqi volunteers to undergo training

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Hundreds of thousands of volunteers who came forward in February when Iraq was under threat of U.S. attack are to undergo more military training, the army said Tuesday. General Yassin Flihi Al Maini, a deputy chief-of-staff, said the volunteers would be "recalled very soon for further training to improve their fighting capability." The three months of arms training which started in February "showed that Iraqis are capable of facing up to any circumstances with courage," he said, quoted by the weekly Al Itihad. The mobilisation of volunteers came during a crisis over U.N. weapons inspections and as the United States and Britain threatened Baghdad with military action. The crisis was defused by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan in a deal which opened Iraq's presidential sites to inspection.

Iran to start major war games

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran said Tuesday it will stage major military exercises on its border with Afghanistan early next week. About 200,000 troops from the Iranian army, air force and navy will take part in the war games, the commander of ground forces, Brigadier General Abdul Ali Pourshad, was quoted as saying by state-run Tehran Radio. The manoeuvres, code-named Zolfagar, were set to start last month but have been postponed several times. No reason was given. The naval drills will take place on Lake Hamoon, which lies on the border of Iran and Afghanistan.

Miss Lebanon against normalisation

BEIRUT (AP) — Miss Israel should not expect open arms. Citing a state of war with Israel, Lebanon's new beauty queen declared Tuesday that she would not shake hands with her Israeli counterpart at the Miss World and Miss Universe contests. "We all know that Lebanon is in conflict with Israel which is occupying an important region in our country. If I see her, I will not shake hands with her and will try to keep a distance from her so that I won't have to shake hands with her," said Clemence Ashkar. Ashkar, an 18-year-old sociology student, was chosen Friday as Miss Lebanon from 23 contestants during a four-hour ceremony. Lebanon, which is technically at war with Israel, forbids any dealing or contacts with the Jewish state. Since 1985, Israel has occupied a border enclave in southern Lebanon.

Student dies of caffeine overdose

MOREHEAD CITY (AP) — A 20-year-old man died after swallowing dozens of over-the-counter caffeine pills on a dare from a fellow community college student. Jason Warren Allen had swallowed most of a 90-pill bottle, which would be the equivalent to drinking as many as 250 cups of coffee, authorities said. "It's a terrible, terrible story," said Morehead City police Major Wrenn Johnson. "No one suspects caffeine to be deadly." Allen was taking general education development classes at Cateret Community College. He collapsed outside the college during a break from class Oct. 20.

Fat kids watch too much TV

WASHINGTON (R) — American children need to skip television and get more exercise to reduce the record number of them who are overweight, health experts and government officials said Tuesday. About one in five children in the United States are overweight, according to the U.S. Agriculture Department, which held a day-long conference on childhood obesity on Tuesday. "We need to take this issue seriously," Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said, calling childhood obesity "a quiet epidemic in America." About 17 per cent of Mexican-American boys aged six to 11 are overweight, the highest percentage of any adolescent demographic group. Sixteen per cent of African-American girls aged six to 19 are overweight, the government said. Experts said the increasing time kids spend in front of the television is a major factor.

U.S. digital programming to start Nov.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — American digital television programming is set to begin Nov. 1 bringing exceptionally clear pictures and sound to viewers with high-definition television sets. American officials have decided to gradually introduce the new technology and allow television stations to voluntarily switch to digital programming between Nov. 1, 1998 and 2006. Forty-one U.S. stations will broadcast high-definition television programmes in November, according to the Federal Communications Commission. And for the time being, most Americans will continue to watch their analog broadcast programmes on regular television sets.

Palestinians to boycott occupied Jerusalem elections

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The Palestinian National Authority on Tuesday urged Palestinians to boycott next month's elections for mayor in Jerusalem, saying participation would signal acceptance of Israeli occupation of the city.

The status of occupied Jerusalem is to be determined in talks on a permanent Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement that have yet to begin.

The Palestinians want Arab east Jerusalem, the sector Israel occupied in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, as their capital.

However, Israel says it will never relinquish control over all of the city which is sacred to Islam, Judaism and Christianity.

Faisal Hussein, the PNA's leading official in occupied Jerusalem, told a news conference Tuesday that the city's Palestinian residents should stay home on Nov.

10 when municipal elections are being held.

"We hope they will not participate," Hussein said.

Jerusalem has about 420,000 Jewish and 180,000 Palestinian residents. Some 124,000 Palestinians are eligible to vote, said an Israeli legislator, Naomi Hazan.

Hussein was expressing the traditional Palestinian view. The PLO has always discouraged Palestinian residents of the city from par-

ticipating in the elections, saying this would be tantamount to recognising Israel's annexation of Arab east Jerusalem.

However, some are taking a more pragmatic view.

Jonathan Kuttab, a Palestinian human rights lawyer, said that although Palestinians may not necessarily get a share of power if they vote and post candidates, they will become more informed on issues involving them directly, as

the budget and services.

As a result of the Palestinians' refusal to vote, they have received very little in services in return for the taxes they pay. Many roads in Arab east Jerusalem are full of potholes and classrooms are overcrowded.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, a hardliner in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party, is expected to be re-elected.

Hamas to continue war with Israel despite Wye accord, says Misha'al

CAIRO (AP) — A leader of the Islamist Palestinian group Hamas was quoted Tuesday as saying that his movement will continue fighting Israel despite its peace accord with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Khalid Misha'al, the head of the Hamas' political bureau, also predicted that the PNA will not be able to fulfil its pledges to destroy extremist groups under the new Middle East deal.

"We will not be a scapegoat... we are not weak nor can we be easily broken," Misha'al was quoted as saying in an interview with the Islamic-or-

ented Al Shaab newspaper.

"No one can destroy Hamas or end its role. Our battle will be with the Zionist enemy and our people will be our wall of protection," Misha'al said.

Hamas is opposed to any peace deal with Israel and advocates the annihilation of Israel. It has been blamed for several fatal attacks on Israelis in the past.

Under the accord signed in Washington on Friday by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, the authority has agreed to track down Palestinian radicals blamed for attacks on

Israelis. The CIA would keep track of the efforts to arrest and punish these elements as a way of alleviating Israeli security concerns.

Misha'al was quoted as saying that the implementation of the agreement will inevitably spark a confrontation with the Palestinian security forces.

He also blasted the task assigned to the CIA in the agreement, saying that will make the American intelligence service a partner "in suppressing the Palestinian people." Misha'al said the CIA has in the past investigated Hamas members in cooperation with the Palestinian security.

Most Palestinians don't trust Netanyahu

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — More than 80 per cent of Palestinians do not trust Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, according to an opinion poll released on Tuesday.

The survey by the West Bank-based independent Palestinian Centre for Public Opinion also found that Palestinians were nearly evenly divided over the interim peace accord reached with Israel last week.

The poll of 370 Palestinians surveyed in the West Bank and Jerusalem over the weekend showed that 45 per cent opposed the land-for-security deal and 42.5 per cent supported it.

An opinion poll published in Israel on Sunday showed that 74 per cent of Israelis believed Netanyahu did the right thing by signing the deal.

In the Palestinian survey, 84.1 per cent of those questioned said they did not trust Netanyahu compared with only 9.2 per cent who said they did.

Only 25.5 per cent of those polled said they favoured amending the Palestinian Charter as stipulated by the accord.

The charter contains clauses calling for Israel's destruction.

Vatican renews call for international status for Jerusalem holy sites

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Vatican reiterated its call for "special international status" for Jerusalem's holy places on Tuesday ahead of Israeli-Palestinian talks next month to determine the area's final status.

It asked the two sides, which both claim east Jerusalem as their capital, to accept the help of the international community to work out "a final status for the Holy City that takes into account the concerns and hopes of the faithful."

Jerusalem is "a universal symbol of brotherhood and peace," it said in a statement, calling on Christians, Jews and Muslims to cooperate to make the city "a place of meeting and reconciliation" as the millennium approaches.

The Vatican said that with the approach of the 2,000th

anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ, all concerned should work to "guarantee the sacred character and universal cultural heritage" of the city.

The statement came following a two-day symposium organised by Jerusalem's Latin Patriarchate that brought together three cardinals, 30 bishops, Jerusalem Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, Coptic Christians and Protestants.

On Monday the Vatican asked to take part in upcoming Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on Jerusalem's future.

"The Holy See believes that it's important for its representative to sit at the negotiating table to make sure that they are fair and that no aspect of the problems will be forgotten," Vatican Foreign Minister Jean-Louis Tauran said.

'Libya right to ask for guarantees on Lockerbie suspects'

ALEXANDRIA (AFP) — Libya is right to demand guarantees before extraditing the two Libyans suspected of the deadly 1988 Lockerbie plane bombing for trial, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Monday.

"The Libyan position is clear. It wants guarantees to safeguard the rights of the suspects so that they do not get sent to the United States or Britain if found guilty," he said in a speech to naval officers here, adding that Libya was "correct" to ask for the guarantees.

Mubarak stressed "Libya's right to have reservations about the U.N. Security Council resolution, which calls for the suspension and not the lifting of sanctions, once the two suspects are delivered to justice."

The United Nations imposed sanctions against Tripoli in

1992 following its refusal to extradite for trial Libyans Abdul Basset Ali Al Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah, who are suspected of the bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland that left 270 dead.

In August the security council voted unanimously to suspend the sanctions after Libya agreed in principle to release the men, following United States and British acceptance of a trial in the Netherlands under Scottish law and before Scottish judges.

But Tripoli has since been demanding certain "guarantees" on the men, including that they not be sent to the United States or Britain if found guilty.

Mubarak said Monday the affair had "gone on too long," adding that Egypt was in touch with all parties concerned to find a solution to the impasse.

900,000 expatriates leave S. Arabia in crackdown

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia said on Tuesday more than 900,000 expatriates had left since April as part of the government's drive to rid the kingdom of foreigners violating residency rules.

The interior ministry said in a statement 920,375 illegal workers had left the country between April and September.

They were among about 1.7 million who had been violating visa regulations, the statement said. Those who did not leave either renewed their visas or changed their spon-

sors, who must guarantee work for expatriates, it added.

Saudi Arabia launched an amnesty as part of a crackdown on visa violators in July 1997, giving them three months to legalise their status or leave.

Other Gulf Arab states have taken similar steps, forcing thousands of expatriates to return home.

Foreigners — mostly from the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia and poor Arab states — make up about one third of the 18 million population of the oil-rich kingdom.

Turkey asks Moscow to extradite PKK leader

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey has asked Russia to extradite a Kurdish rebel leader wanted on charges of heading a terrorist organisation, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

Abdullah Ocalan leads the banned Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which has been fighting for Kurdish autonomy in Turkey since 1984. The conflict has killed about 37,000.

Ocalan's whereabouts are unclear.

Turkey says he recently left Syria for Russia. But in Moscow, the Interfax news agency said Monday that the Federal Security Service has not confirmed Ocalan's presence in Russia.

"Contact is being maintained with the Turkish special services. We asked them about the possibility

of Ocalan's using false documents to enter Russia," the intelligence agency said through a spokesman, Interfax said.

Turkish newspapers have said Ocalan was in hiding in a suburb some 30 kilometres west of Moscow.

As for Ocalan, he issued a statement last week saying he was somewhere in Kurdistan, a region that stretches over parts of

Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria.

Sermet Atacanlı, a spokesman for the Turkish Foreign Ministry, said the extradition request was filed Monday in Moscow, along with a diplomatic protest over Ocalan's supposed presence in Russia.

"We have determined that this man is [in Russia] and have asked them to return him," he said.